ALL ABOUT HISTORY™

First lady of the world

How Eleanor Roosevelt paved the way for female leaders in the White House

VLAD THE IMPALER

Psychopath or saviour of Europe?

THE PLAGUE OF 1918

Uncover the virus that killed more than WWI

THE SCANDALOUS RISE OF VICTORIA

- The real relationship with Lord M
- Inside the teen queen's diary
- The seven would-be assassins

PLUS
Italian Futurism
Battle of Valmy
Vichy France
Douglas MacArthur

London vs fascism

How the East End took on Oswald Mosley and won

Witchcraft & persecution

The true horrors of witch-hunting exposed

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Timeline

Was William Shakespeare born early enough to enjoy the delights of a cup of tea?

And did he wear a Top Hat?

Britain's first Prime Minister was surely at a later date...

...but was that before of after the Great Fire of London?

1666
The Great Fire of London

1797
The Top Hat is First Worn

Each turn you place one of your cards where you think it goes in the Timeline before turning it over to see if you are right. There is only one goal - correctly play all of your cards!

This game contains 110 British History themed cards and can be combined with the cards from other Timeline sets.

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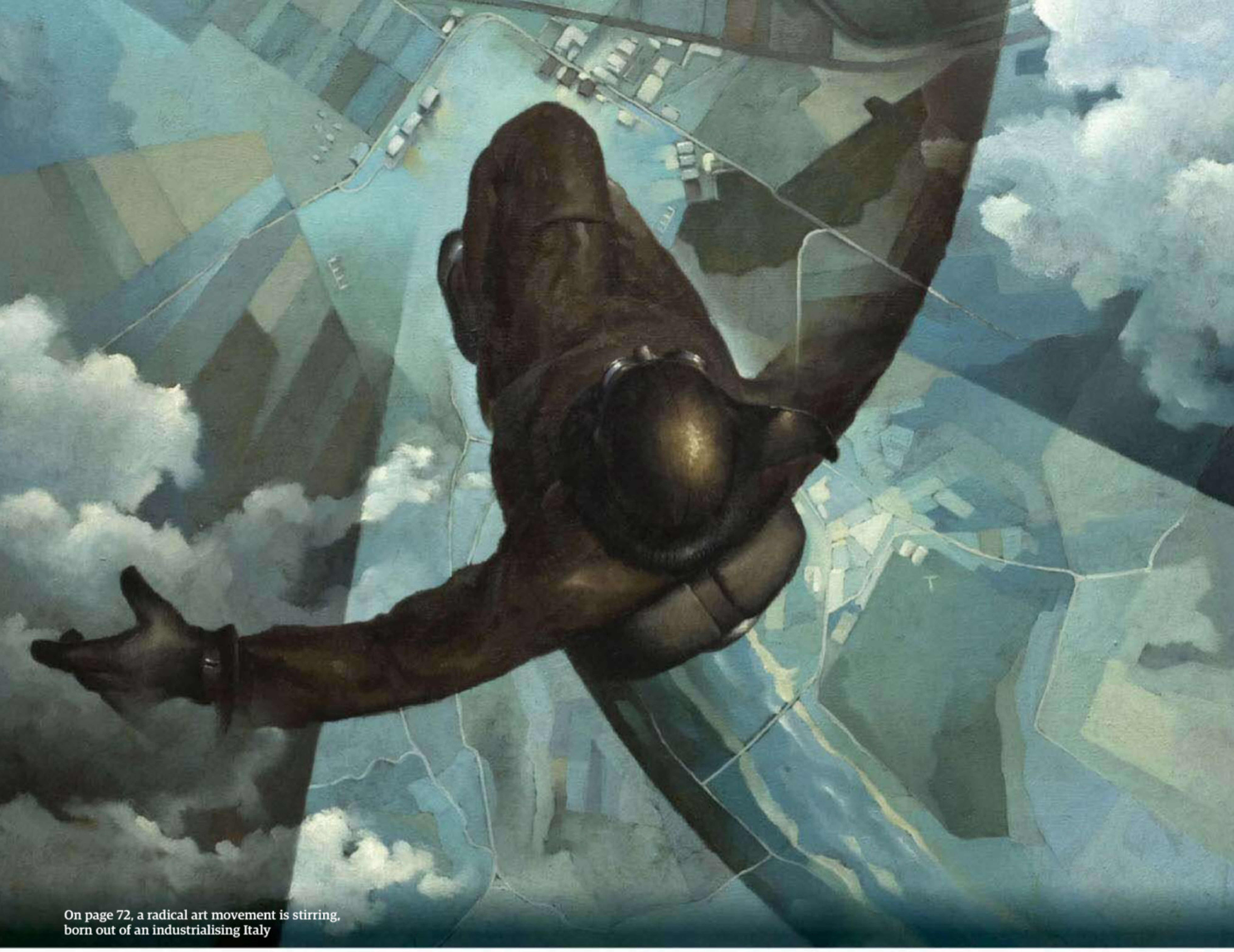

On page 72, a radical art movement is stirring, born out of an industrialising Italy

Welcome

The harvest is in, the nights are growing colder and it's time to tell ghost stories. All Hallows' Eve has been traced back thousands of years to the Celtic festival of Samhain – the night when the dead returned to Earth. Sacred bonfires were lit and animal sacrifices were made.

Nowadays, the world's spookiest annual celebrations include a cast of characters far removed from their historical counterparts. Take witches, for instance, which were considered a very real threat to societies across Europe. As Chief Justice Anderson noted in 1602: "The land is full of witches... they abound in all places."

This issue, we uncover the centuries of suspicion and prosecution, the trials and the torture of the people accused of being under Satan's spell. And what better time of year to delve into the dark deeds of the real-life Dracula, the infamous Vlad the Impaler? Named for his favoured method of execution, we explore whether the Medieval warlord was a bloodthirsty psychopath or the saviour of Europe. History is so much scarier than fantasy.

Jodie

Jodie Tyley
Editor

Editor's picks

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A day in the life of a witch-pricker
In 17th-century Scotland, there were men who made a profession out of testing for witches. Discover what a typical day entailed.

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Eleanor Roosevelt
Read the fascinating story of the controversial and principled first lady of the world, who served for 12 years and changed American politics forever.

60

Contagion: 1918
The last of the great plagues claimed more lives than the Great War. Find out the origins and aftermath of the deadly Spanish flu and the impact it had on the world.

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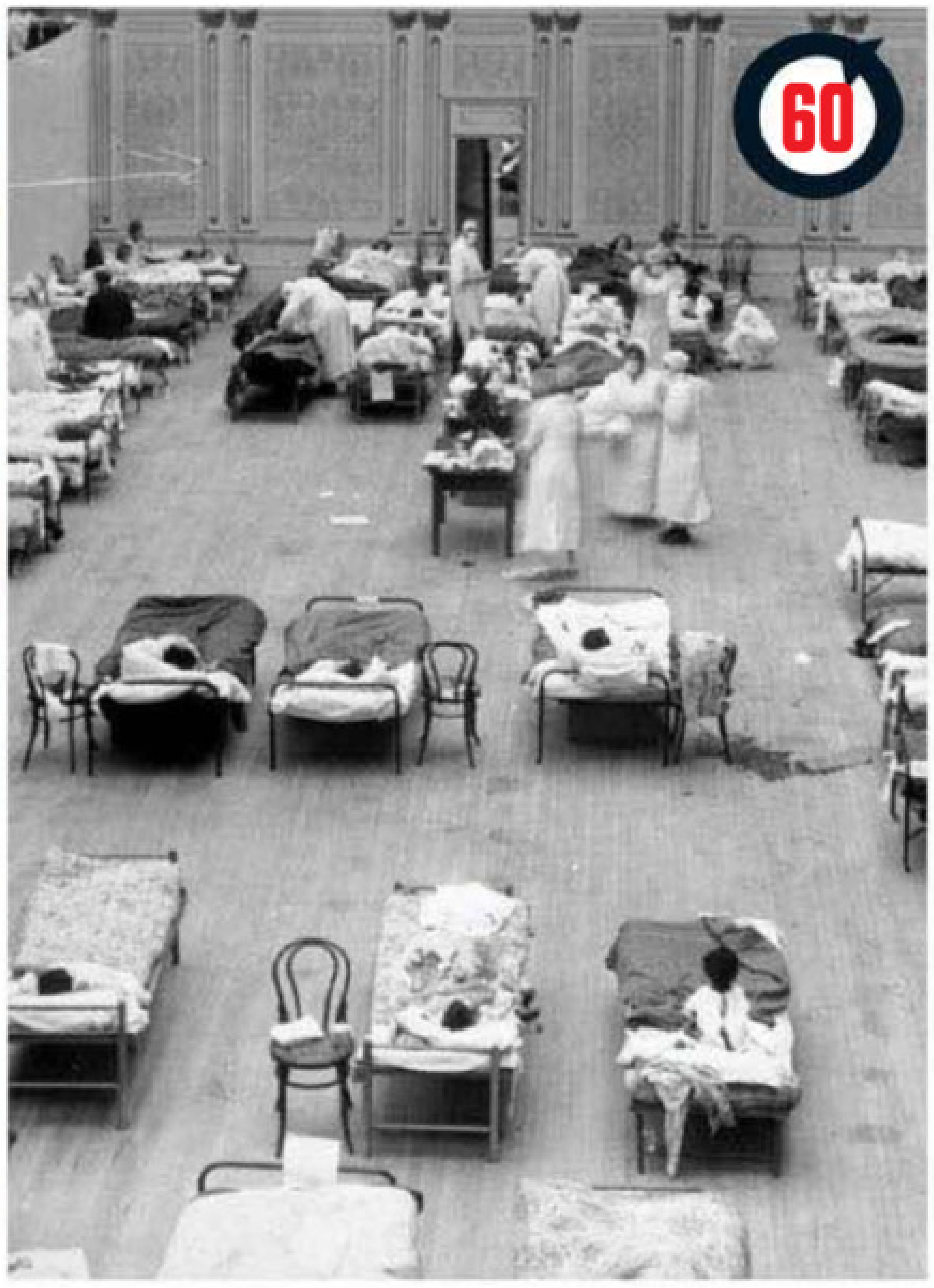

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HISTORY IN PICTURES

ENTER THE CATACOMBS

Beneath the Parisian streets lie the bones of more than 6 million people. The Catacombs of Paris were the solution to overcrowded graveyards, where the stench of rotting cadavers forced the government to take action. From 1786 until 1859, corpses were transferred to tombs some 20 metres under the capital, and the public has been able to visit the ossuary since the early-19th century.

1934

© TopFoto

HISTORY IN PICTURES

ATTACKS ON SAIGON

A wounded American soldier is rushed to a helicopter on 11 May 1968, while black smoke billows from a Viet Cong strike on a refinery. This was during the second phase of the Tet Offensive, where North Vietnam and their communist southern allies, known as Viet Cong, attacked 119 cities and bases, including Saigon. Unlike the initial attacks, however, they lost the element of surprise and were defeated by 12 May.

1968

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HISTORY IN COLOUR

STOCK MARKET CRASHES

Black Thursday, 24 October 1929, was the first day of the Wall Street Crash. Stock prices plummeted and panicked investors sold shares for anything they could get. It plunged the country into the Great Depression – a ten-year period of mass unemployment, poverty and deflation. This picture was taken on Black Friday, and demonstrates the desperate situation that millions found themselves in.

1929

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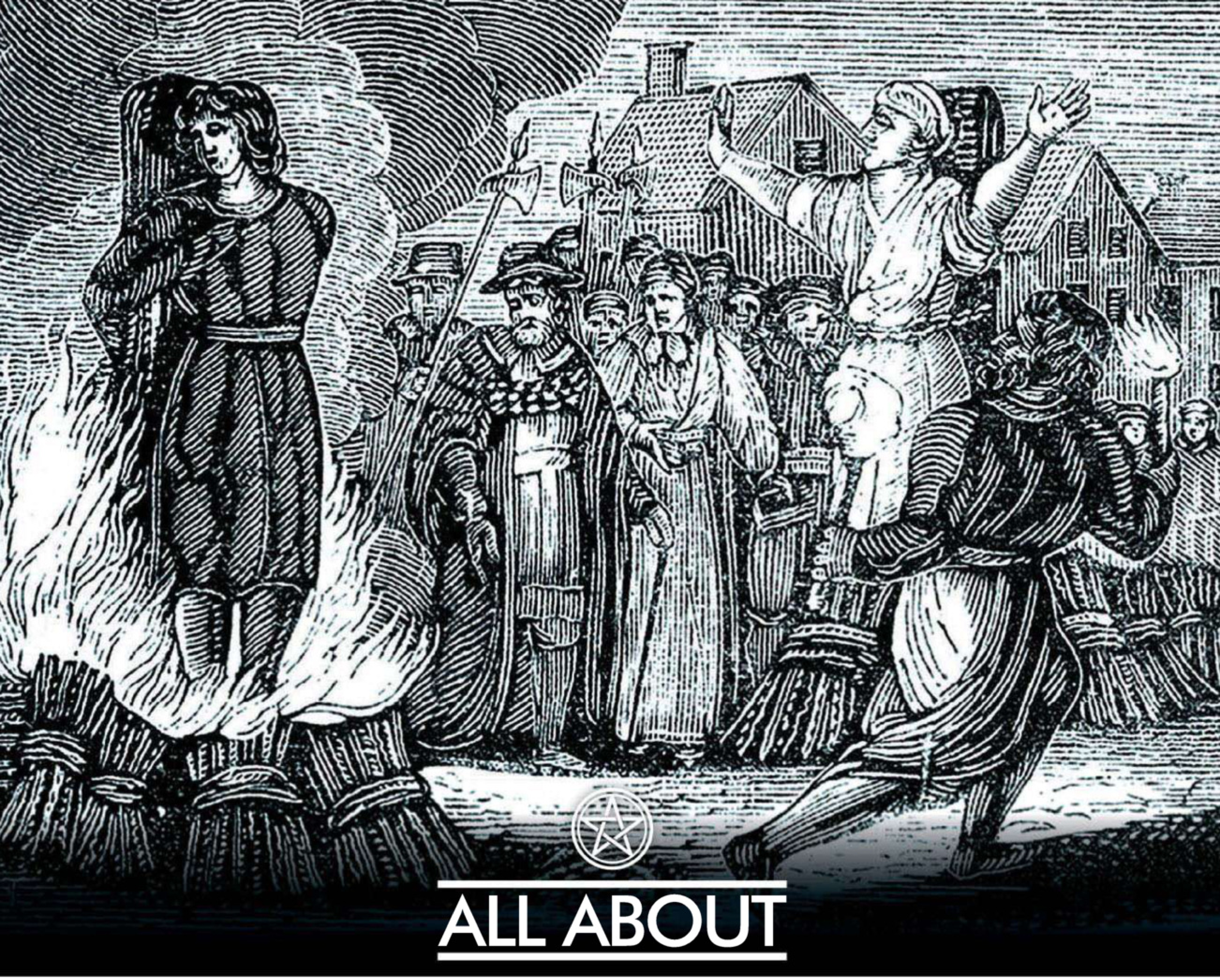
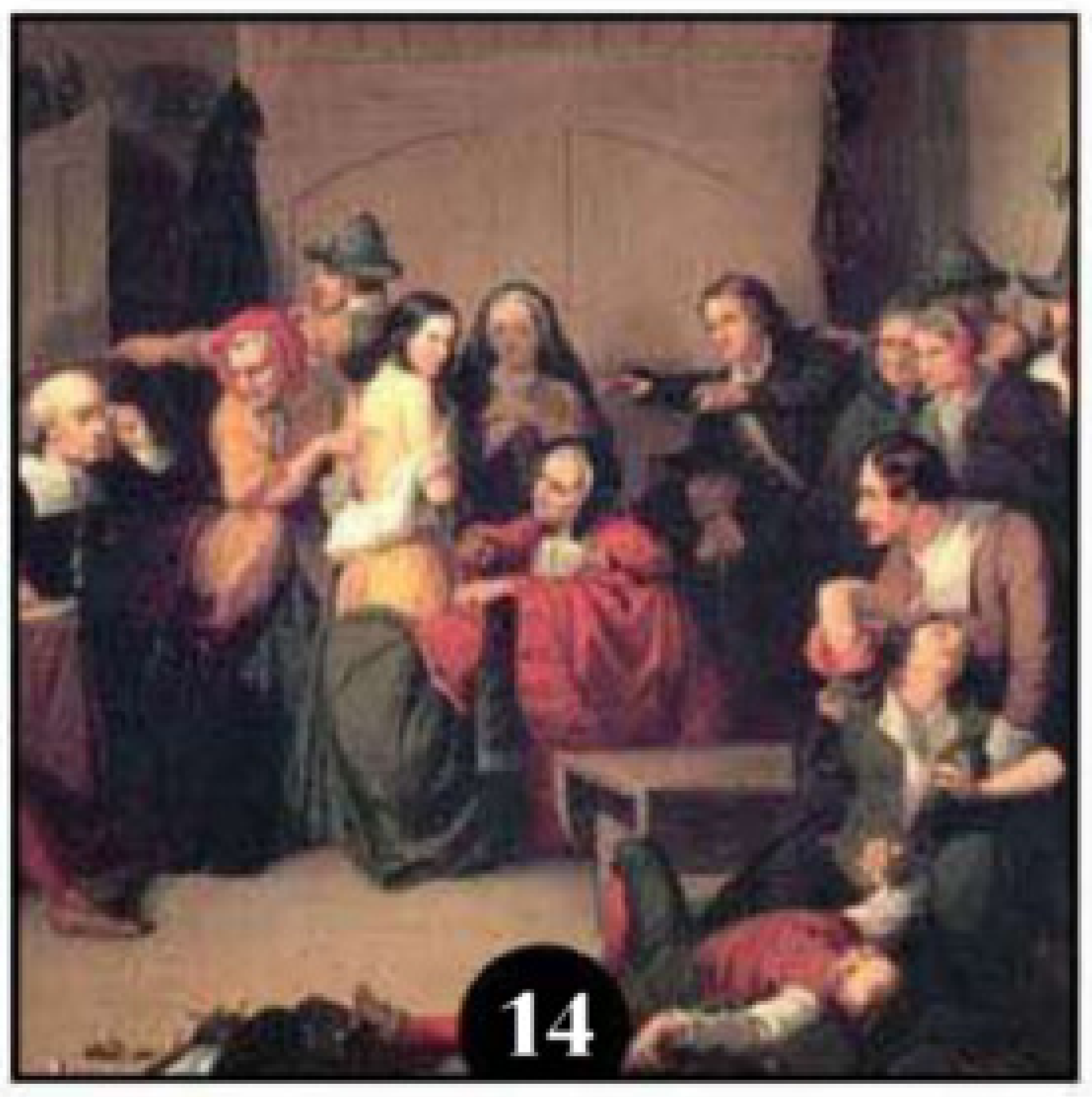
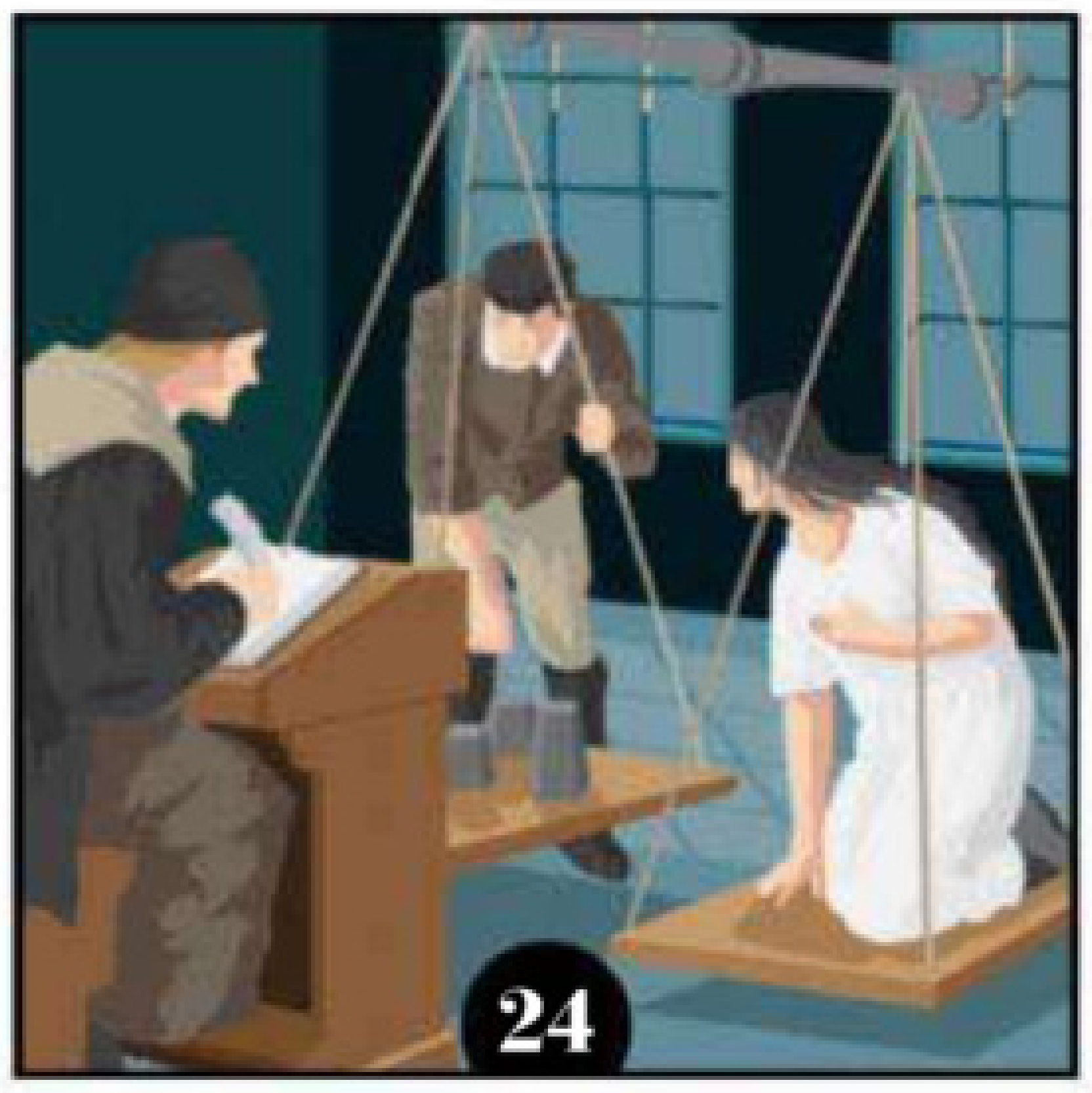


ALL ABOUT WITCHCRAFT

Trace the history of witchcraft persecution through the centuries and meet the modern-day champions of Wicca





Witchcraft persecution

Being suspected of witchcraft was a dangerous and often fatal position to be in for several centuries of European history

1316

PAPACY LINKS SORCERY AND HERESY

Pope John XXII issues bulls that link sorcery, heresy and pacts with the devil – central themes of the continental witch trials that follow.

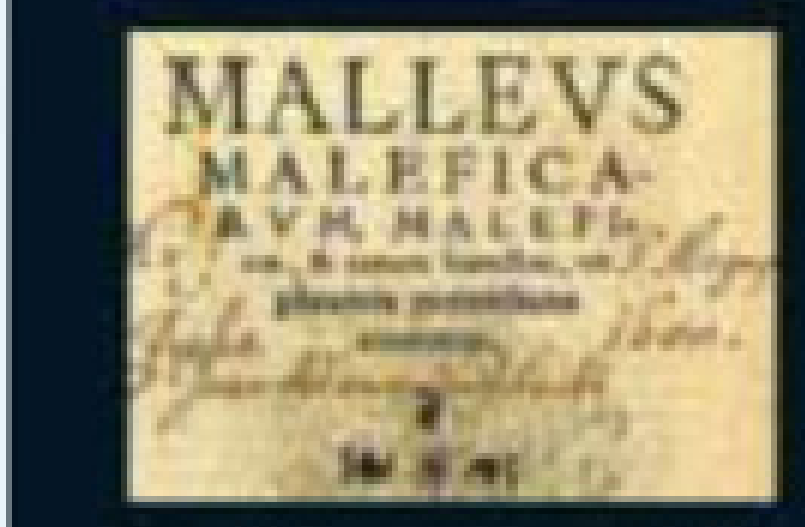
1428

VALAIS WITCH TRIALS, SWITZERLAND

Heralding the first set of European witch trials, charges against the accused include flying, cannibalism and lycanthropy. At least 367 will have been executed at the stake by 1447.

1487

'MALLEUS MALEFICARUM'

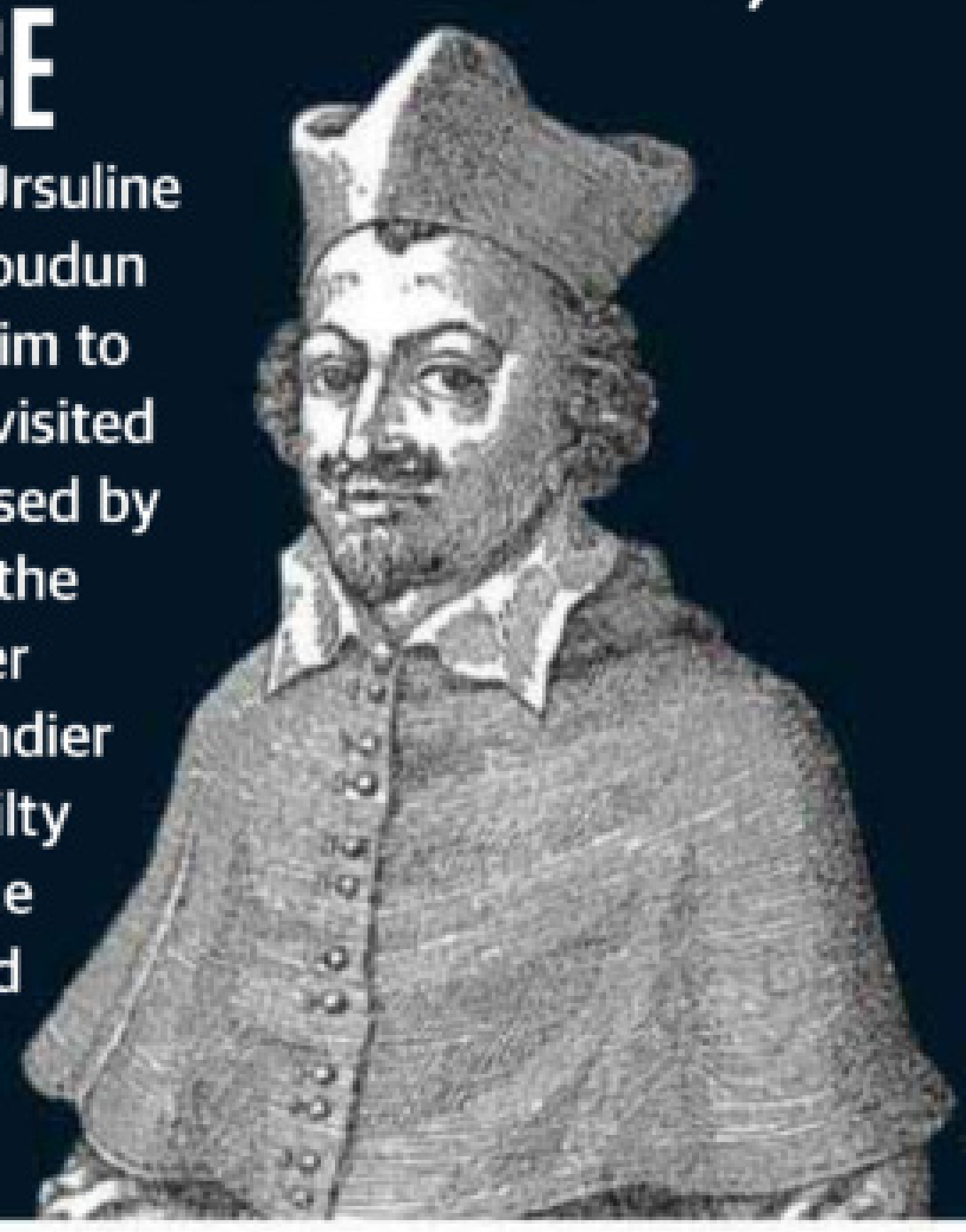


MALLEVS
MALEFICA-
RVM MALEFI-

German churchmen Kramer and Sprenger's aptly named *Hammer Of Witches* provides witch-hunting guidance. By 1669, there will have been 36 editions, making it one of the most notorious witch-hunting texts of the period.

1634

LOUDUN POSSESSIONS, FRANCE



When the Ursuline nuns in a Loudun convent claim to have been visited and possessed by evil spirits, the priest Father Urbain Grandier is found guilty of calling the demons and burned at the stake.

1644

Matthew Hopkins Witch Finder Generall
My Impe names are

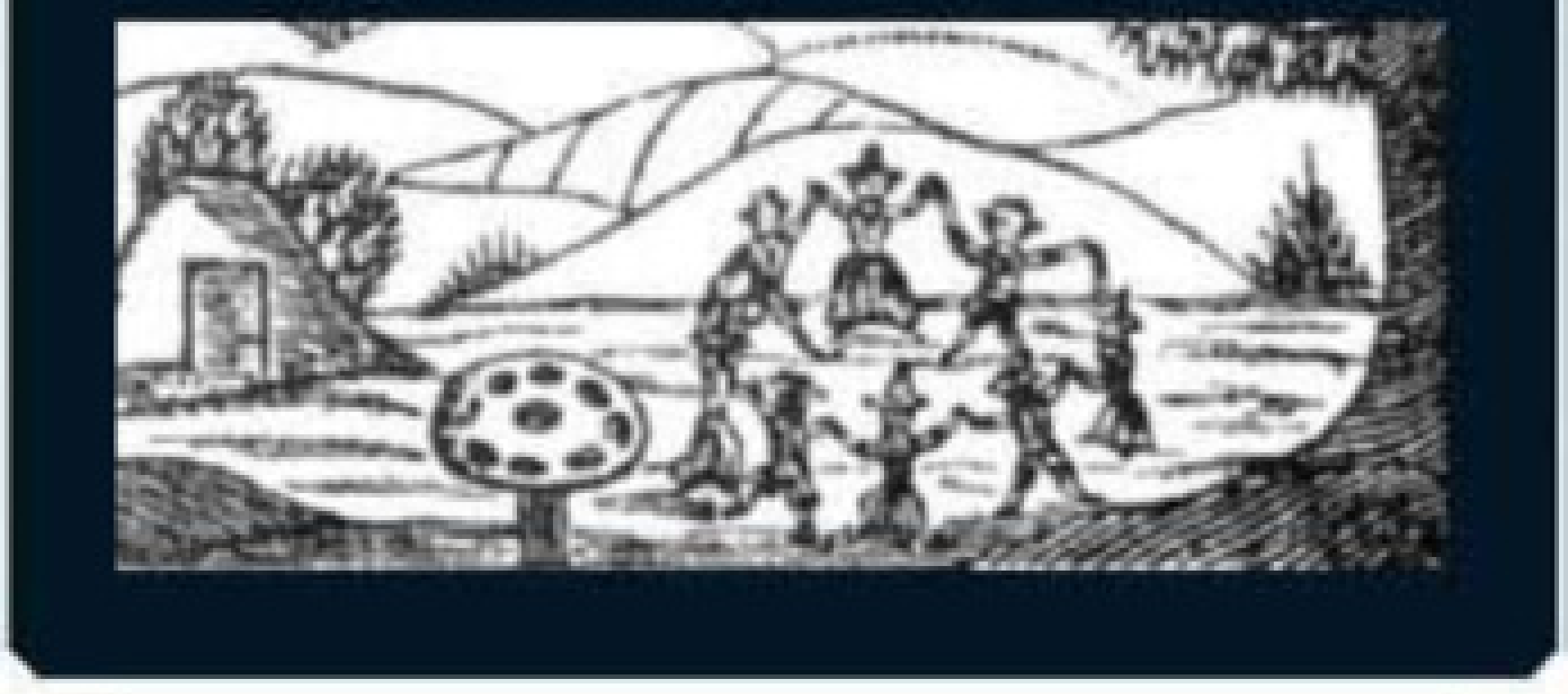
MATTHEW HOPKINS' REIGN OF TERROR

The self-appointed witchfinder general starts his campaign against witches across the counties of East Anglia. Acting on incredibly spurious evidence and questionable interrogation techniques, England's only 'Witch Panic' takes shape under his influence.

1662

ISOBEL GOWDIE'S CONFESSION

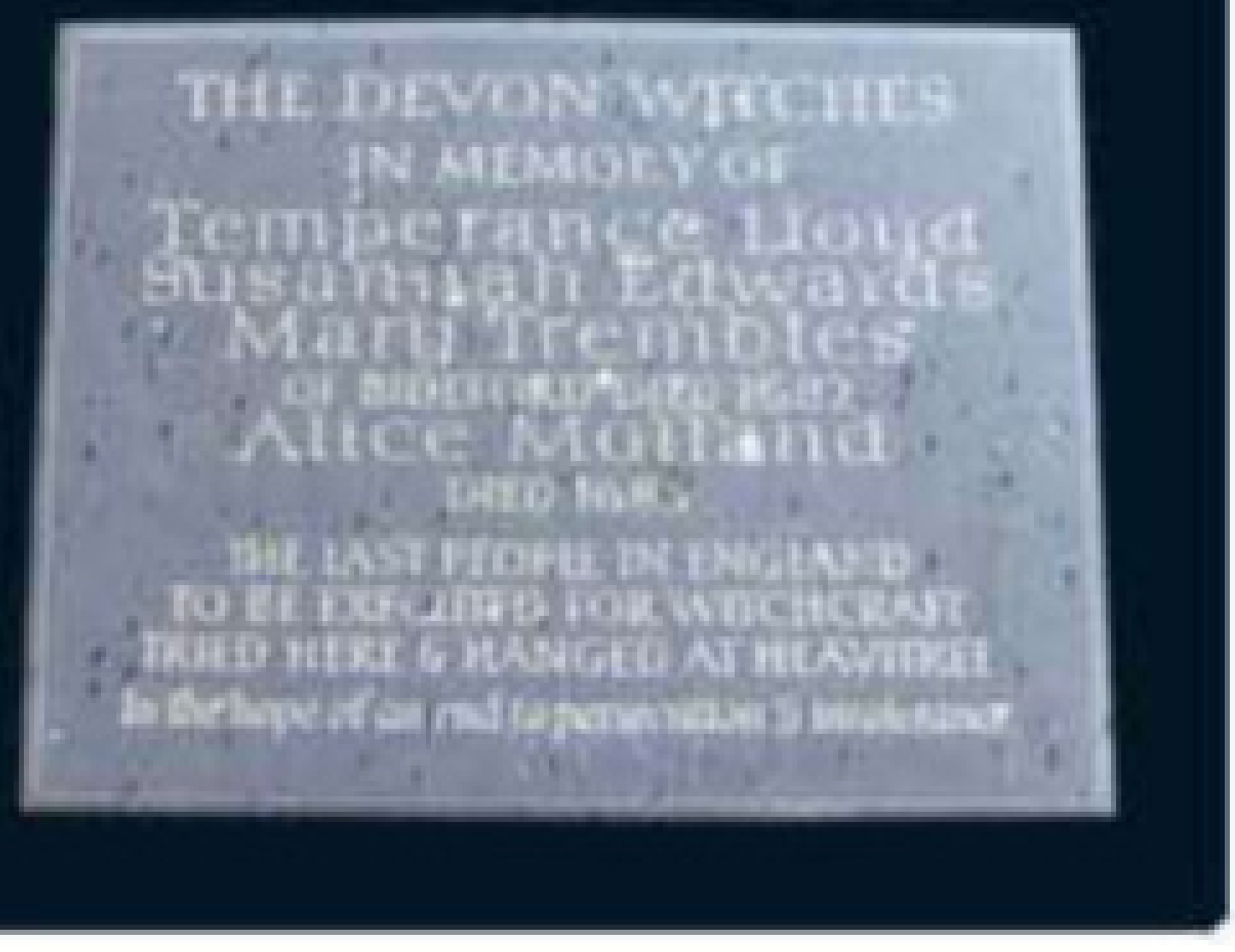
The most famous of Scottish witches, Gowdie makes four elaborate confessions, seemingly without use of torture. Her claims include killing with elf shot, damaging crops and meeting the queen of the fairies. However, there is no official record of her execution.



1682

LAST WITCHCRAFT EXECUTION IN ENGLAND

The 'Bideford witches' Mary Trembles, Temperance Lloyd and Susannah Edwards, often named as the last to be hanged for witchcraft in England, are executed in Devon.



THE DEVON WITCHES
IN MEMORY OF
Temperance Lloyd
Susannah Edwards
Mary Trembles
OF BIDEFORD DIED 1682
Alice Molland
DIED 1685
THE LAST PEOPLE IN ENGLAND
TO BE EXECUTED FOR WITCHCRAFT
TRIED HERE & HANGED AT HEAVITREE

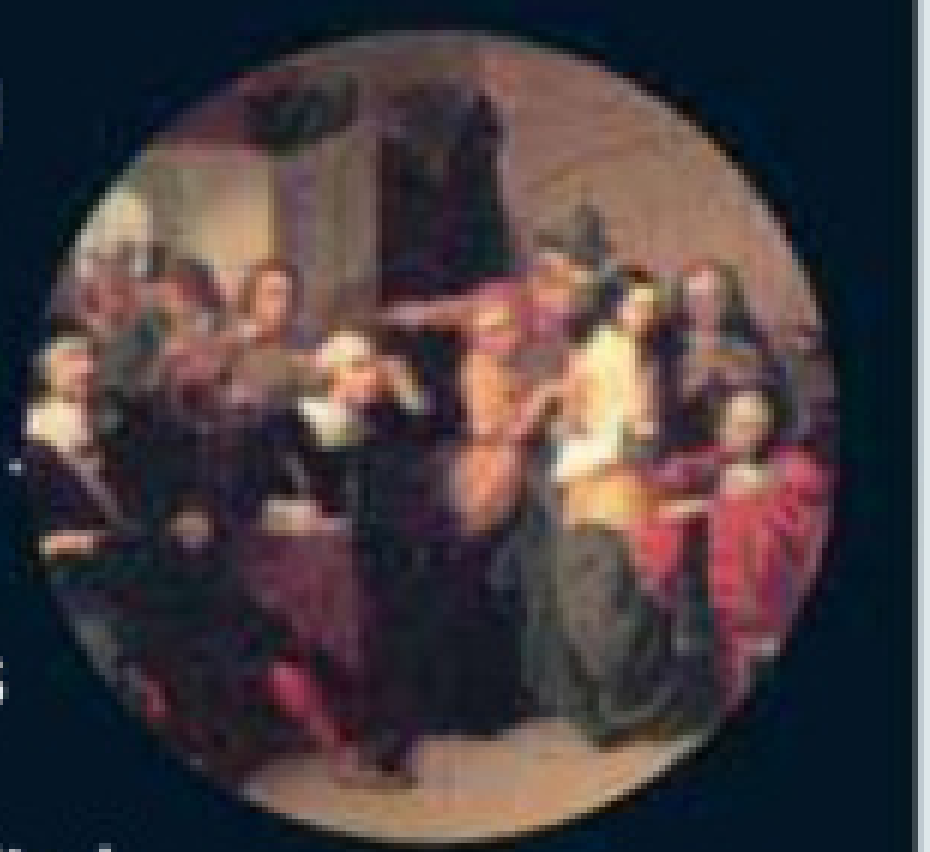
There have been recent attempts to seek a pardon for the Bideford witches, over 300 years after their execution.

1692

SALEM WITCH TRIALS

200 PEOPLE are thought to have been accused of witchcraft in Salem.

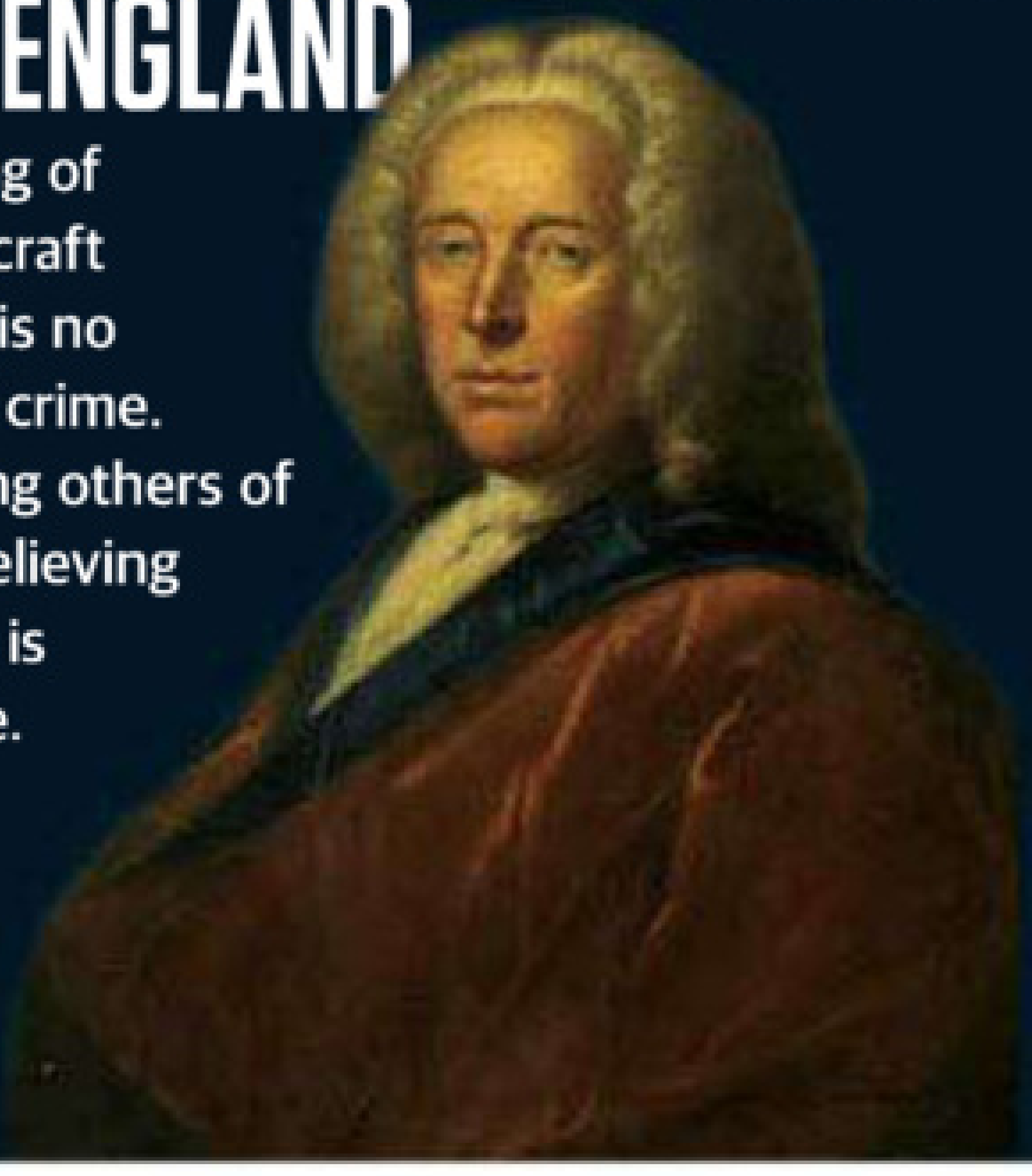
20 of the accused are convicted and executed.



2 The number of days Giles Corey was pressed before he died.

1736

PROSECUTION OF WITCHCRAFT ENDS IN ENGLAND



With the passing of the 1736 Witchcraft Act, witchcraft is no longer legally a crime. Instead, accusing others of witchcraft or believing oneself a witch is now punishable. The maximum sentence is a year in prison.

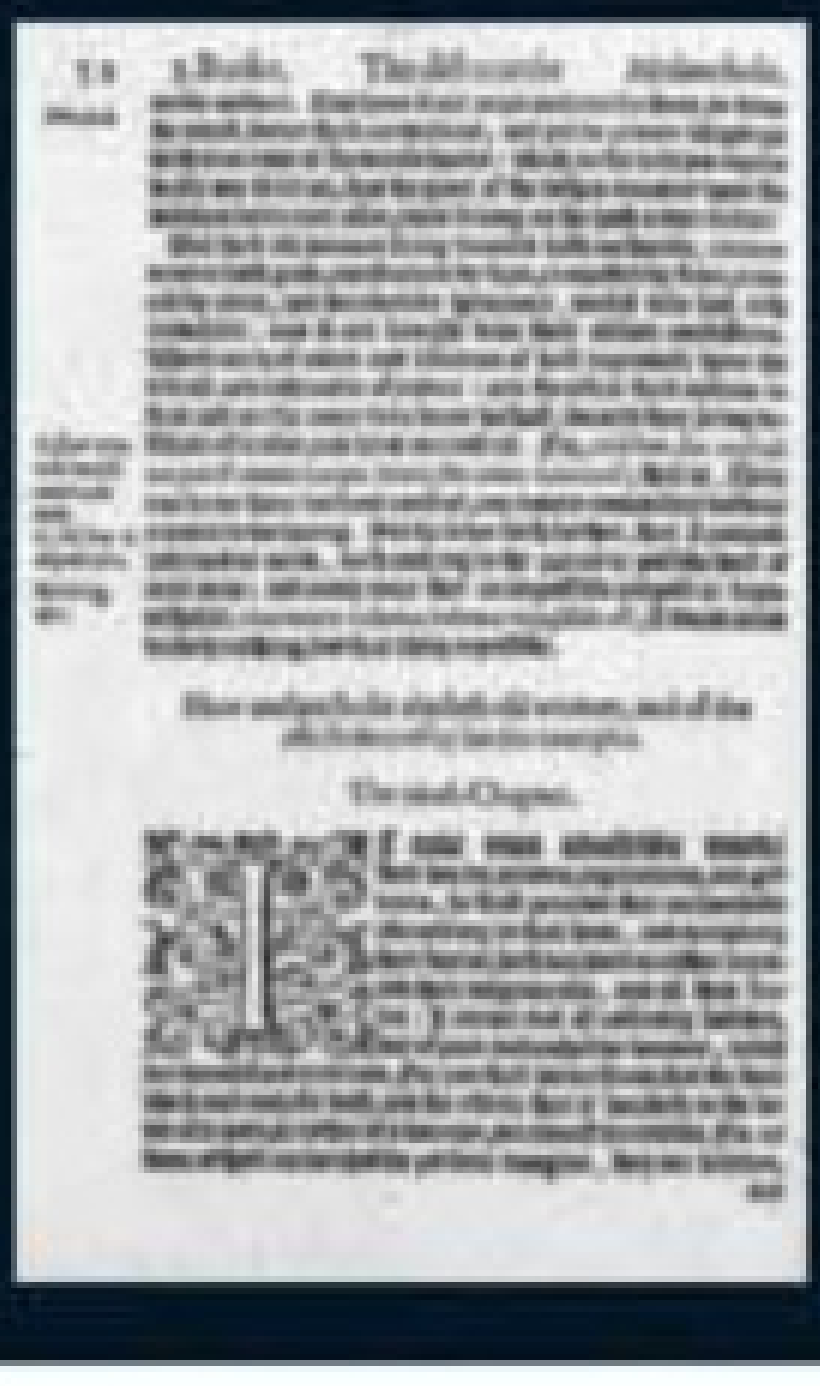
1563

ENGLISH WITCHCRAFT ACT PASSED

This new legislation sees causing death by witchcraft enter the statute books as a felony, punishable by execution. Causing illness or destroying goods is punished by a year's imprisonment and the pillory.

1584

'THE DISCOVERIE OF WITCHCRAFT'



Reginald Scot publishes his influential text, drawing on evidence and examples from a variety of sources to put forward his theory that witchcraft does not exist and that the accusing and trying of witches is wrong.

1590

NORTH BERWICK WITCH TRIALS

James I became personally involved in the trials because he believed witches raised a storm to sink a ship he was sailing on.

70 The number of people accused over the two-year period.

4 The number of sharp prongs on the witch's bridle forced into Agnes Sampson's mouth as she was tortured.

2,500 The estimated number of people executed for witchcraft in Scotland during the entire witch trial period.

1604

ENGLISH WITCHCRAFT LEGISLATION TIGHTENED

With the accession of witch-hating James I to the English throne, conjuring up or communicating with spirits becomes a felony akin to treason and punishable by death.

1612

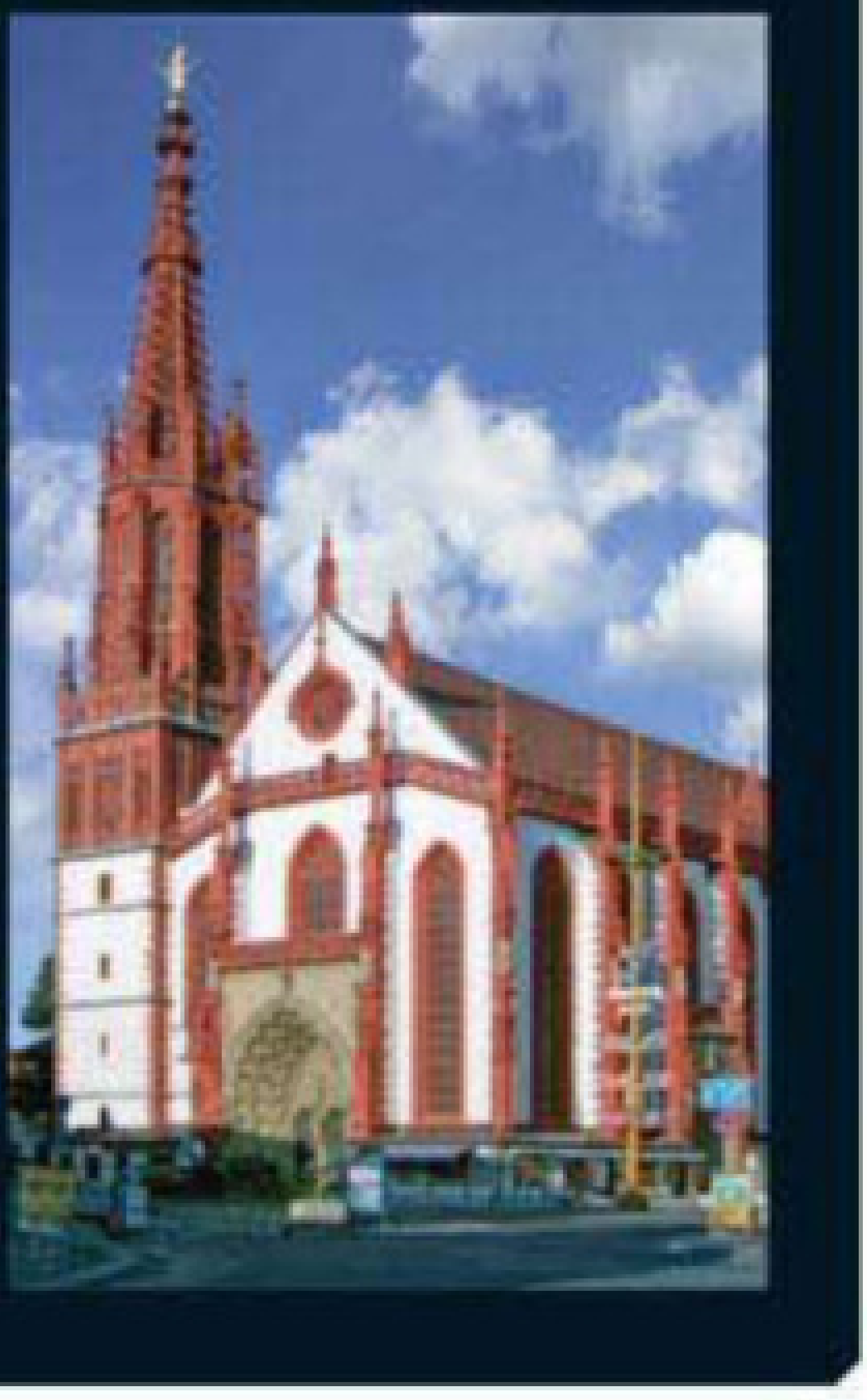
WITCH TRIALS IN PENDLE

One of the most famous English witch trials sees one of the first mentions of covens in an English case. Ten suspects are executed, one dies in prison and only one is acquitted.

The testimony of nine-year-old Jennet Device was instrumental in sending the Pendle Witches to the gallows.

1626-1631

WURZBURG WITCH TRIALS



157 are burned at the stake in the city after beheading.

219 The total number of executions from the city.

900 were killed across the whole of the Prince-Bishopric of Würzburg.

1782

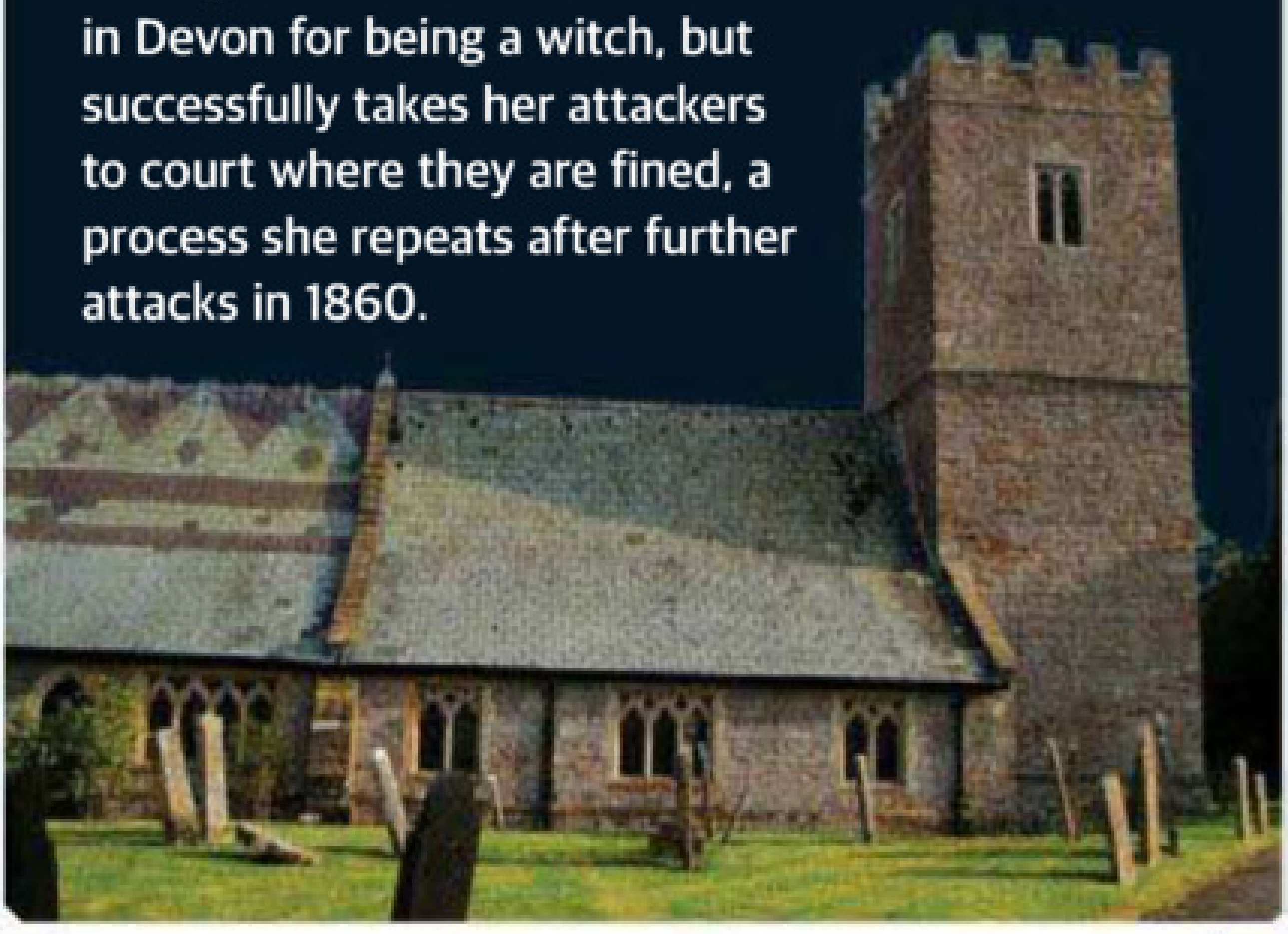
ANNA GÖLDI IS EXECUTED, GLARUS, SWITZERLAND

A maid in the Tschudi household, Göldi is accused of putting pins in the food of Tschudi's daughter and confesses under torture to a pact with the devil. She is executed by decapitation. She is the last person to be executed for witchcraft in Europe.

1852

TABLES ARE TURNED

Elderly Susannah Sellick is attacked in Devon for being a witch, but successfully takes her attackers to court where they are fined, a process she repeats after further attacks in 1860.



1944

HELEN DUNCAN IS IMPRISONED

Under the 1735 Witchcraft Act, the famous medium is jailed for nine months for defrauding clients of money under false pretences. Some claim her arrest is due to fears of the threat Duncan posed to war-time security.

Duncan was believed to have told of the sinking of two British battleships before any information was released.

INSIDE HISTORY

HOME OF A CUNNING-WOMAN

THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE FOR A FOLK HEALER

ENGLAND, 17TH CENTURY

Cunning-folk were in existence from at least the 14th century, but by the 17th century they were a staple part of English life. Considered a blessing by those who used their services and a plague by social commentators of the day, it was estimated that one could not go more than 16 kilometres without coming across a practicing cunning-man or woman in some parts of England, meaning most would have met one at some point.

Well known for their healing skills, they were often called on during times of sickness. Love magic was also particularly popular, with curious young women wanting to know the identity of a future husband. Others came wanting help identifying a thief and recovering stolen property, and even, in some cases, locating hidden treasure. Although often lumped together with witches, cunning-folk were actually the anti-witch, and one of their most called upon skills was that of diagnosing bewitchment and un-witching victims.

Unlike witches, cunning-folk were never pursued with any great enthusiasm by authorities, and although some of their practices, such as the location of treasure, were punishable under witchcraft legislation, they were never prosecuted in great numbers. The line between cunning-woman and witch was sometimes thin, however, and there was little help for those against who popular opinion turned.

Important texts
The majority of cunning-folk were literate to some degree and clients would expect them to have a variety of books or grimoires ready to be consulted. In reality, it was not guaranteed that the cunning-folk would understand more than a fraction of what they contained. These texts, often in Latin and containing various symbols and diagrams, ranged from the mathematical to religious books such as the *Bible*.

Mirror or glass
A successful cunning-woman knew how to get her clients to do the work for them; to identify a thief or person who had bewitched them, the cunning-person would ask the afflicted to look into a reflective surface and say what or who they saw there. This was particularly successful if the client already had a preconceived idea of who might want to cause them harm.

Witch bottle
Considered safer than confronting a suspected witch, this was a service that a cunning-woman could provide after diagnosing bewitchment. The bottle, often made from stoneware, would be filled with urine, hair and nail clippings from the victim, along with pins, thorns or iron nails. It was sealed then buried or heated, the aim to cause pain to the witch, forcing them to break their hold on the victim.

Written charms
Cunning-women were often called upon to provide charms to protect and ward off trouble, frequently provided in a written form. Ranging in complexity from a short popular section of one of the gospels to more elaborate pleas for protection, these were worn on the person or concealed about the home.

Bible and key
A popular method used by a cunning-woman to identify a thief or wrong-doer for a client; the names of several suspects were written on paper and put in turn into the end of a key. The key was then placed on an open page of the *Bible* (often the first psalm) and the verse read out loud. The book and key would turn if the named person was guilty, thereby identifying the culprit.

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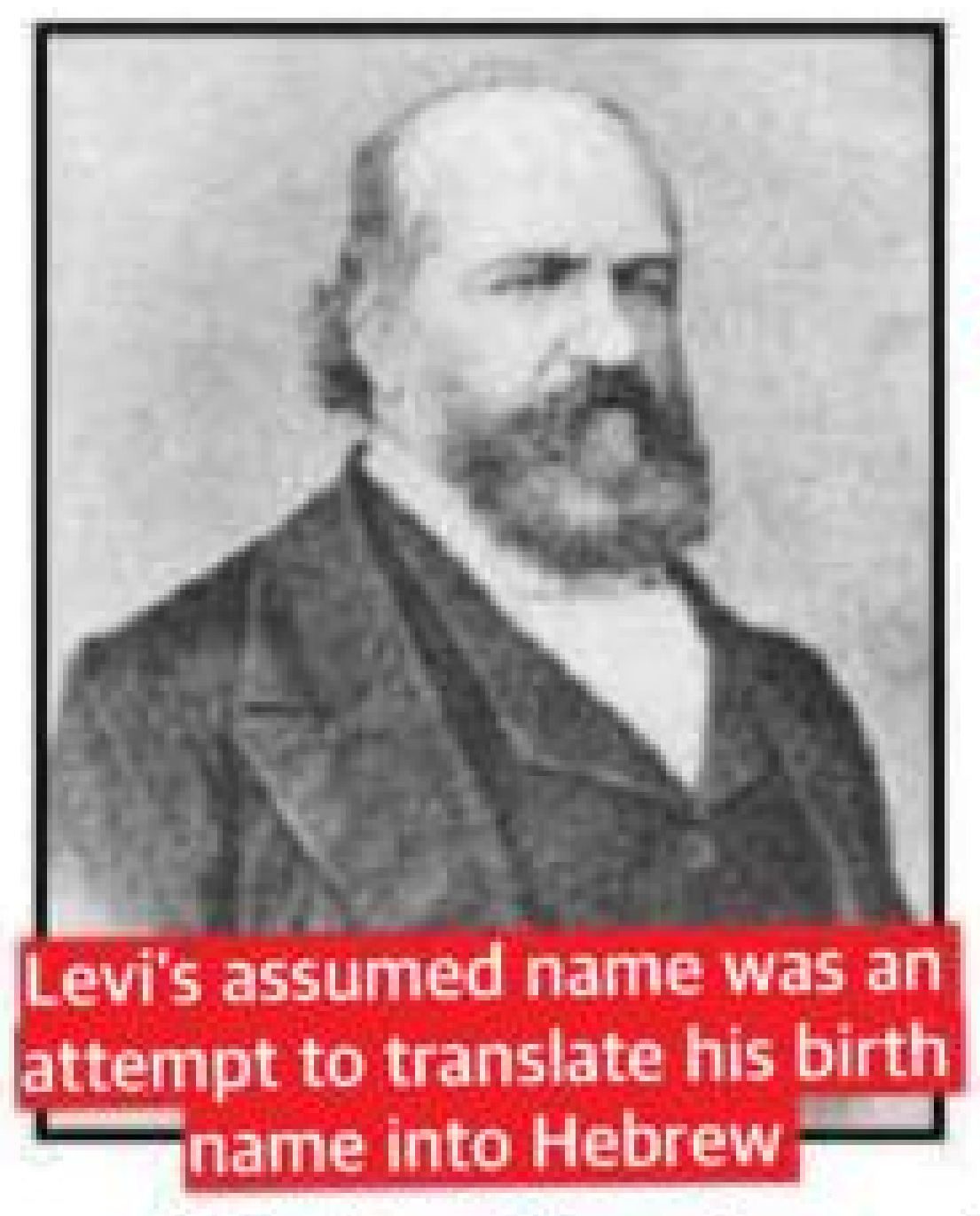
Hall of Fame MODERN WITCHES

Meet the fascinating and divisive figures who helped shape Wicca and modern witchcraft



Levi's assumed name was an attempt to translate his birth name into Hebrew

ELIPHAS LEVI

FRENCH 1810-75

Considered one of the founders of the modern revival of magic, Levi - born Alphonse Louis Constant - was highly influential on both the Golden Dawn movement and Aleister Crowley, and also on the very fundamentals of the use and practice of magic. His system of magic was well received throughout the West, and Levi can be credited both with the incorporation of the Tarot Card into modern Western magic and with the importance placed on the symbolism of the pentagram.

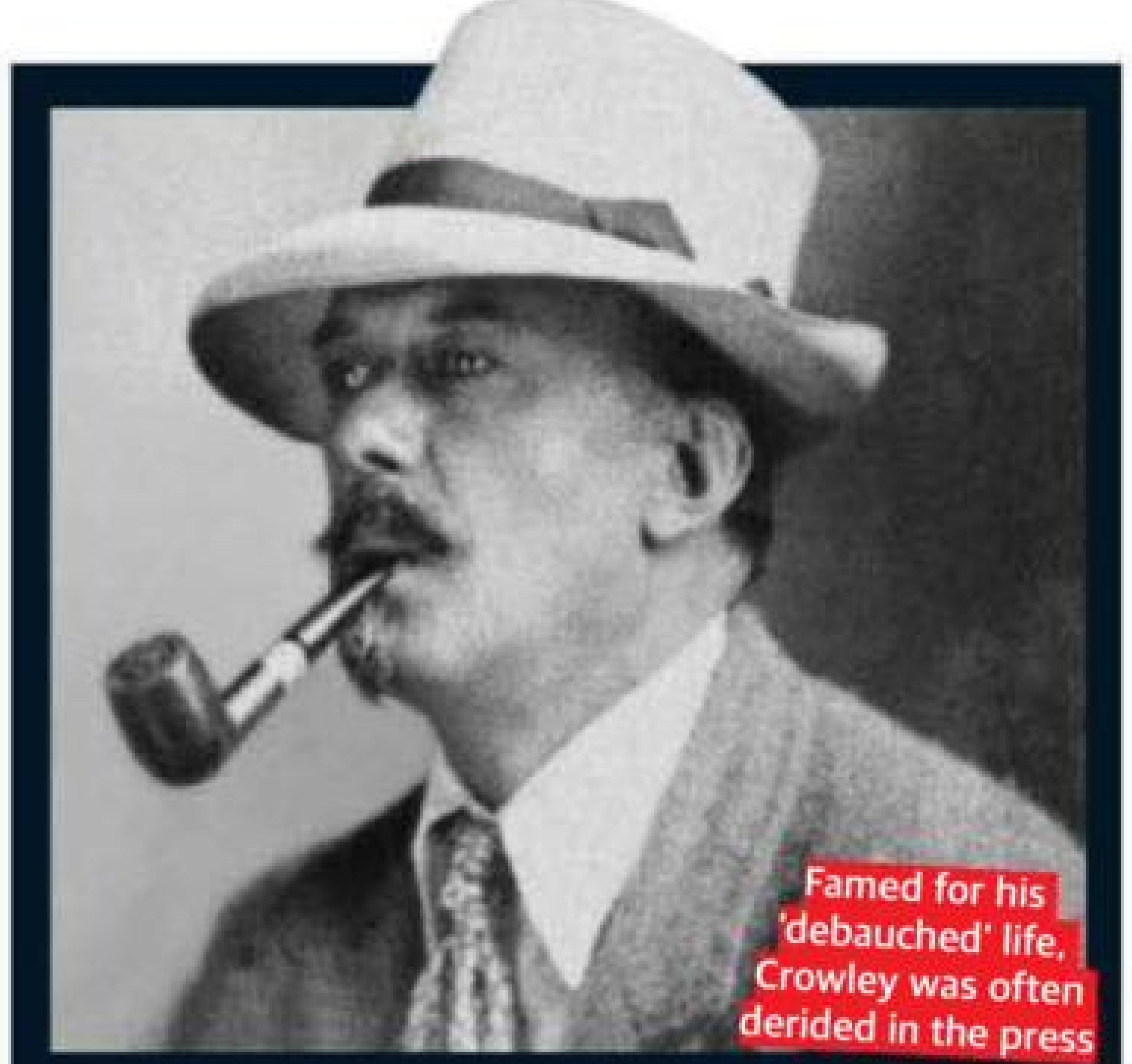
The 'Mother of Modern Witchcraft', Valiente shaped much of what we know as witchcraft today

DOREEN VALIENTE

ENGLISH 1922-99

Initiated into Gardenian witchcraft in 1953, Valiente rose to be a high priestess of the tradition, and through her all-important task of rewriting Gardner's rituals, she imbued the craft with a poetic sensuality that remains prominent today. In 1957, she formed her own coven, breaking away from Gardner to seek her own path. Valiente was also the author of five books on Wicca-related topics and a keen advocate for the craft, particularly active during the 1960s and 1970s. She was involved with several influential covens during her life, and remained involved until her death in 1999.

A woman of many talents, Valiente worked as a translator at the now-famous Bletchley Park during World War II



Famed for his 'debauched' life, Crowley was often derided in the press

ALEISTER CROWLEY

ENGLISH 1875-1947

A highly controversial figure, Crowley learned the skills of ceremonial magic after joining the Order of the Golden Dawn in 1898. Believed by many to be 'the wickedest man alive', Crowley referred to himself as 'The Great Beast' and in 1907 was instrumental in the founding of the religion of Thelema. Crowley's influence is still felt today and many of his ideas were borrowed by Gardner and Valiente in the creation and development of Wicca, and he has also been credited with influencing the founder of the Scientology movement and several prominent Satanists.

Leland was most famous during his lifetime for his *Hans Breitmann's Ballads*

CHARLES LELAND

AMERICAN 1824-1903

Leland claimed an auspicious start in life when his nurse initiated him into the world of magic shortly after birth. A journalist and folklorist, Leland is best known today for his book *Aradia, Or The Gospel Of The Witches*, published in 1899, which had a strong influence on the neo-paganism movement. Leland claimed the text revealed the secrets of traditional Italian witchcraft, given to him by a witch named Maddalena, although this was never substantiated.

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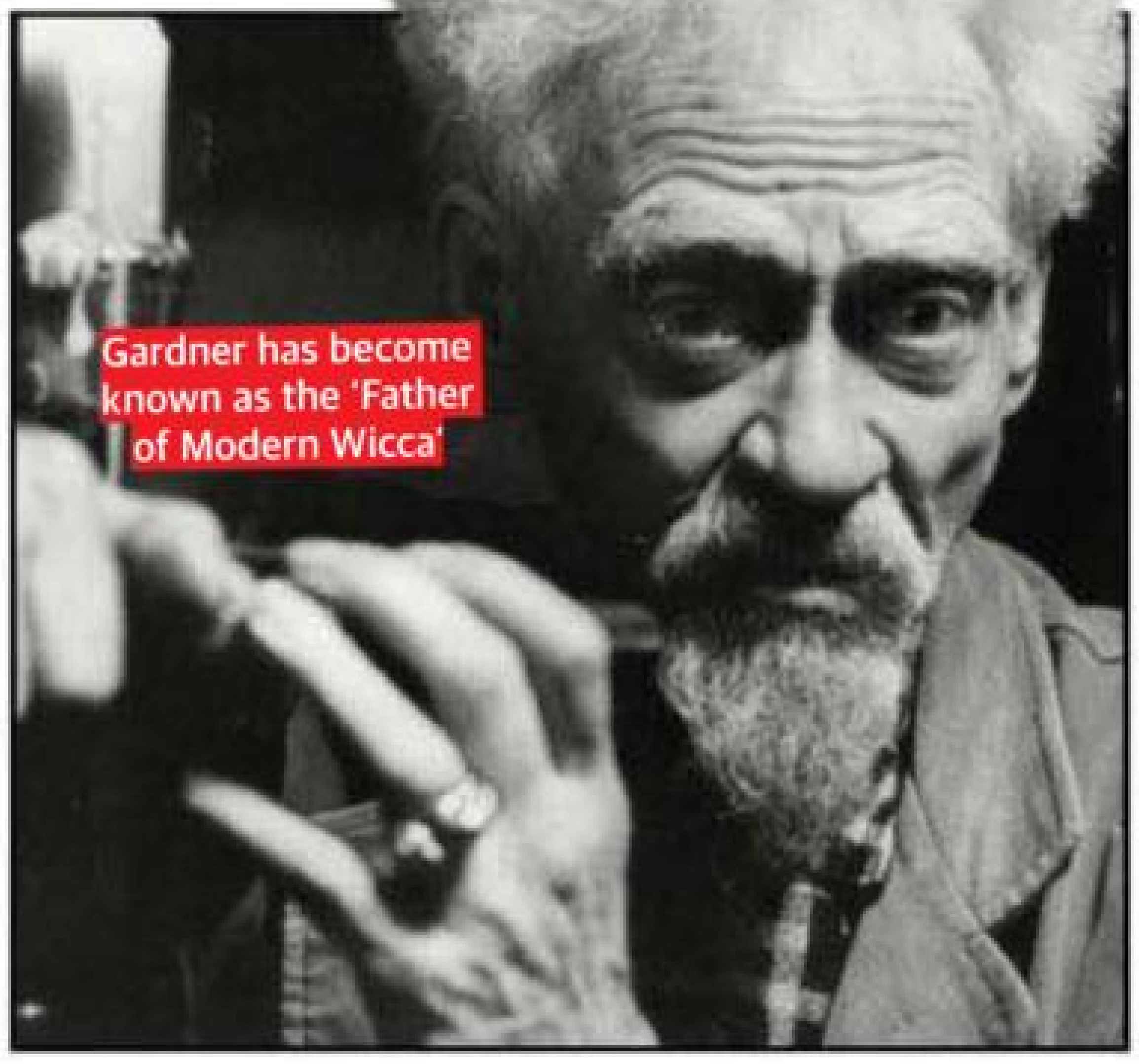


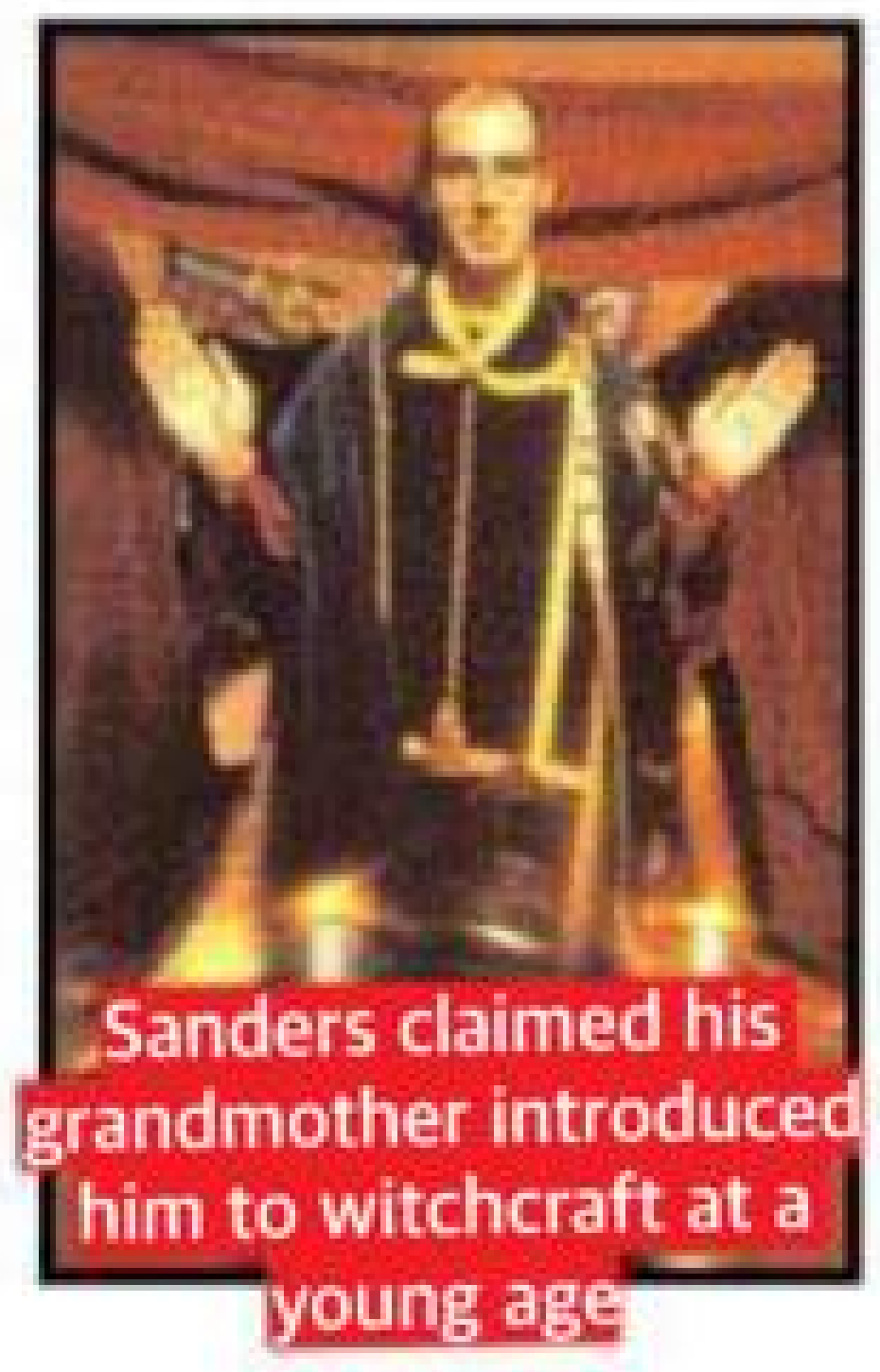
Gardner has become known as the 'Father of Modern Wicca'

GERALD GARDNER

ENGLISH 1884-1964

After discovering the Rosicrucian Order while living in the New Forest, Gardner was initiated into a coven in 1939, which set him on his path. With a firm belief in 'traditional' witchcraft from centuries gone by, Gardner set out to rejuvenate forgotten beliefs, creating what came to be known as Wicca. His ideas spread as far as the USA and Australia by the 1960s, helped by his most influential book, *Witchcraft Today,* which was published in 1954.

In her role as a spiritualist medium, Blavatsky was accused of, and exposed in, fraud on several occasions



Sanders claimed his grandmother introduced him to witchcraft at a young age

ALEX SANDERS

ENGLISH 1926-88

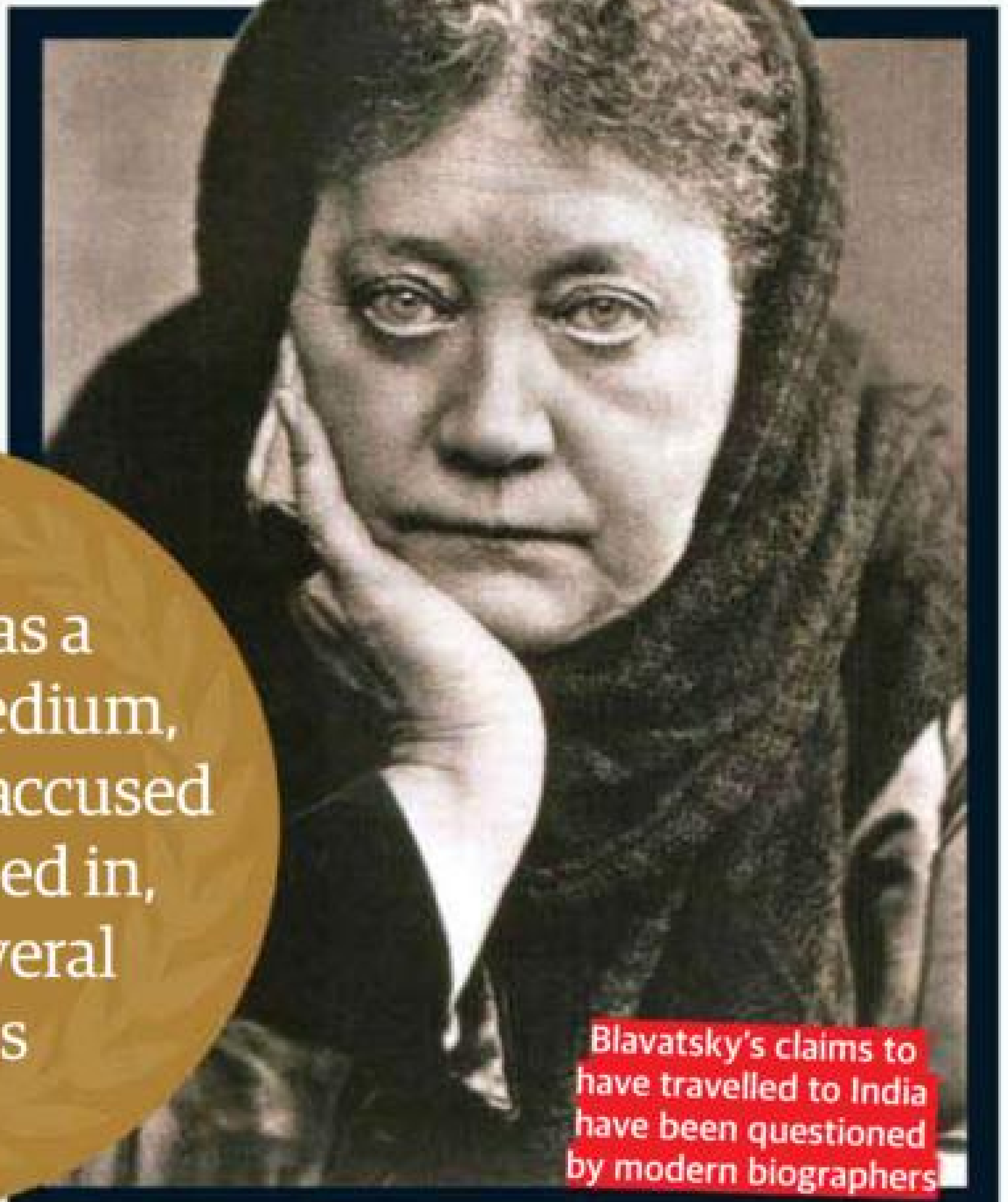
Originally a follower of Gardner in the early 1960s, Sanders soon broke away to form his own coven, attracting great publicity - both positive and negative - in the media and from the Gardenian followers he had left behind. In his new position, the self-proclaimed King of Witches was responsible for the blending of ceremonial magic with Wicca, and together with his equally sensationalist wife, Maxine, founded what is known as Alexandrian Wicca.

MARGARET ALICE MURRAY

ANGLO-INDIAN 1863-1963

Murray was lauded as the 'Grand Old Woman of Egyptology'

Well known for her work as an anthropologist, archaeologist and Egyptologist, Murray's contribution to witchcraft lies in her promotion of the Witch-cult theory: the idea of the existence of a pre-Christian Witch cult in Europe. Her claims have been widely disproved, but her influence is undeniable. Murray's most famous publication, *The Witch Cult In Western Europe*, argued for the historical existence of covens and identified festivals and dates of significance within the witchcraft year.



Blavatsky's claims to have travelled to India have been questioned by modern biographers

HELENA BLAVATSKY

RUSSIAN 1831-91

As a medium and occultist, Blavatsky has been hailed as the mother of modern spirituality. After extensive travelling, she settled in the United States, and it was there that she became co-founder of the influential Theosophical Society in 1875, achieving international acclaim. She was also responsible for bringing several Eastern occult ideas to the West, such as reincarnation and karma, and her ideas can also be seen in the development of the New Age Movement.

Some of the Farrar's own rituals were included in their prominent text

JANET FARRAR

ENGLISH 1950-PRESENT

An initiate of Alex and Maxine Sanders, Farrar and her husband Stewart started their own coven in 1971. The couple co-authored the highly popular *A Witches' Bible*, which has gone on to become one of the most influential pagan texts available. A prolific writer, Farrar has co-authored at least 13 books, and continues to influence modern paganism today.

"A Witch's work is mind work and utilises powerful metaphors, allegories, and images that unlock the powers of the mind" ***Laurie Cabot***

LAURIE CABOT

AMERICAN 1933-PRESENT

Born Mercedes Elizabeth Kearsey, Cabot has had a life-long interest in the occult, and as a high priestess of American Witchcraft, has been instrumental in bringing witchcraft to a wider public across the continent. Living in Salem, Massachusetts, Cabot opened the first witch shop there in 1971, and remains central to the witchcraft community in which she lives. She identifies as a witch but not Wiccan, focusing instead on 'traditional' witchcraft. With several publications, such as *The Power Of The Witch,* Cabot remains one of the USA's most influential witches.

Murray holds the prestigious position of being the first woman lecturer of archaeology to be appointed in the UK

Cabot still lives in Salem, Massachusetts, today

©Getty Images, Rex Features

Day in the life

A SCOTTISH WITCH-PRICKER

MAKING A PROFESSION OUT OF TESTING FOR WITCHES, SCOTLAND, 1648-77

In Scotland, it was believed that when a witch made her - or his - pact with the devil, a mark was left to show that God and baptism had been renounced and that the witch belonged to Satan. These marks were identifiable if, when 'pricked', they did not bleed or cause pain. Initially carried out by ministers, the role was later taken by on by men who became known as professional prickers. The influence and prestige of this vocation started to decline from 1677 onwards, as a gradual shift in opinion led to growing questioning of their skills and authority.

EARLY RISE

Although a witch pricker could find plenty of work in their local area, this was not always the case. They could have to travel considerable distance depending how far their reputation had spread and who was calling for their assistance. In one particular case, a Scottish pricker was summoned across the border to Newcastle to prick suspected witches there.

GATHER EQUIPMENT

The main tool of the pricker's trade was the pin that gave him his name. Although often thought to have been a thick blade, contemporary sources refer consistently to a 'pin'-like tool, implying they used a long, thin and sharp instrument, often described as being made of brass and five to seven centimetres in length. Mention is also made of a retractable point that could be used to 'rig' results if necessary.

In Edinburgh, suspected witches were kept locked up at the Old Tolbooth until the witch-pricker could be summoned

ACCEPT A BRIBE

The pricking usually took place where the prisoners were being held, either the local tollbooth or a room in a house set aside and secured for the purpose. A suspect might offer a bribe to ensure no marks would be found on them, or, in some cases, a pricker might accept money in order to incriminate a particular suspect.

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The witch supposedly received the mark that would convict her from the devil

PRICK THE SUSPECTS

The pricking took place before witnesses, to satisfy curiosity and to keep things ostensibly above board. The humiliating experience involved the accused being at least partially stripped, as the pricker stuck the pin into any marks on their body; some suspects even had their heads shaved to ensure none were missed. Pricking was quick, with sometimes 30 suspects pricked in a session.

PRONOUNCE THE VERDICT

If a mark was pricked and did not bleed and the suspect felt no pain, this was a sure sign it was indeed from the devil and that the accused had very probably made a pact with Satan. If one or more such marks were found, the person was pronounced guilty, imprisoned and often executed.

COLLECT PAYMENT

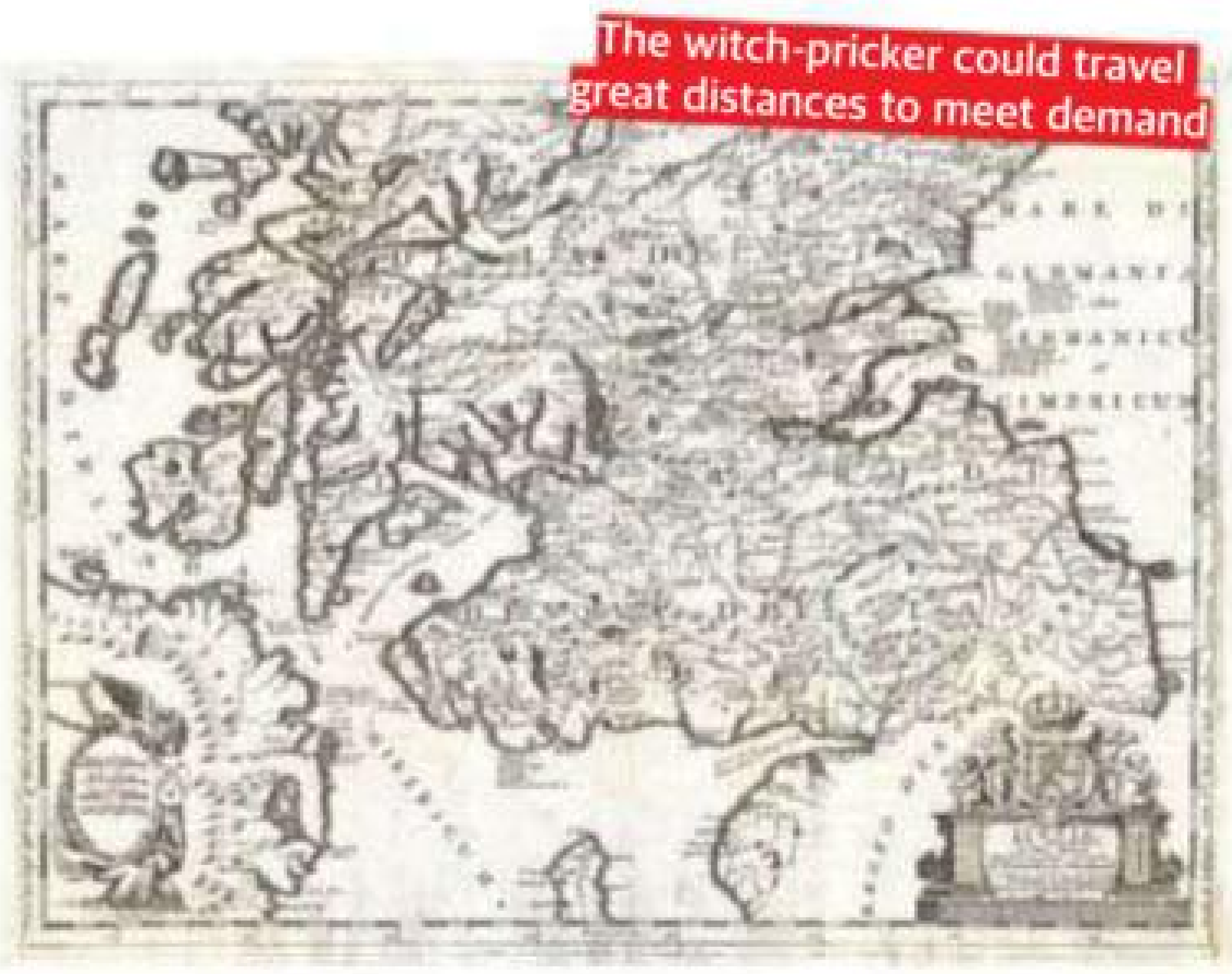
Prickers were well paid for their work: John Kincaid was paid 20 merks (just over £1, or enough to buy 40 bread rolls) for pricking Bessie Masterton in 1649, and another pricker was paid 20 shillings per witch found guilty. This was an incentive for fraud that was clearly fatally exploited, one cause of the eventual unpopularity of the witch-pricker.

AVOID CRITICISM

Prickers occupied a precarious position in society, and if complaints were made against one, they could find themselves in very hot water indeed. John Kincaid was arrested and imprisoned in 1662 after numerous complaints about him overstepping his position, and pricker George Cathie was likewise called before the authorities in 1650; in both cases, this brought to an end the man's pricking career.

SAY YOUR PRAYERS

If they were lucky, a pricker's lodgings would be provided and the expenses of travel onwards paid for. Depending on the mood of the area, the pricker might also find himself invited to dine with the local minsters and other officials involved in the day's events. Then it was early to bed, as a long journey and more witches to prick lay ahead.



The witch-pricker could travel great distances to meet demand

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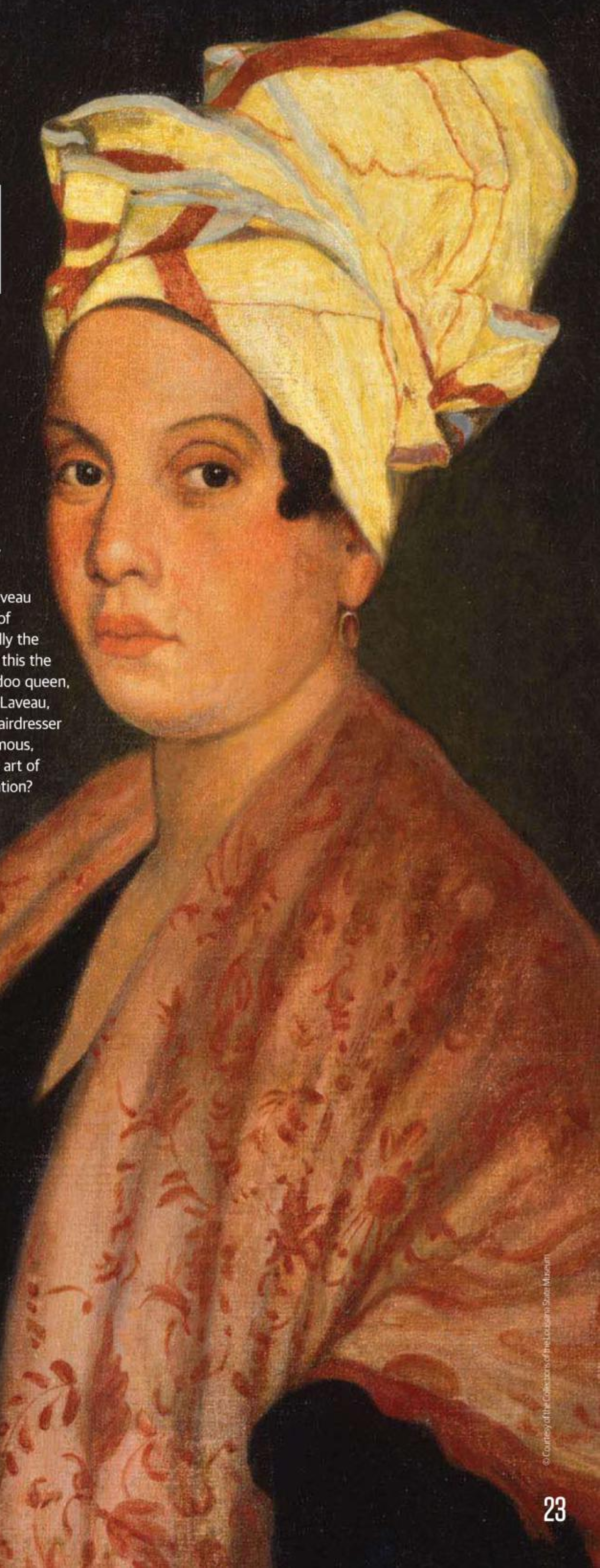
5 amazing facts about…

VOODOO QUEEN MARIE LAVEAU

NEW ORLEANS, USA, 1794/1801-1881



© Courtesy of the Collections of the Louisiana State Museum

01 She never aged

Rumours abounded that Laveau had the secret of eternal youth, for she was said to have never aged over the decades she lived and worked her magic in New Orleans. This has been explained by the fact that Laveau's daughter - also named Marie - took over from her mother after her death.

02 Her talents included killing and curing

Laveau was credited with causing death through voodoo of those she disliked, including such men as the governor of New Orleans. She was also less sensationally famed for her skill as a healer with herbs and potions, bringing solace to those who suffered both physical and mental affliction.

03 She knew everything

It was said that Laveau knew the secrets of everyone, especially the elite in town. Was this the power of the voodoo queen, or was it because Laveau, in her work as a hairdresser to the rich and famous, had perfected the art of extracting information?

04 Catholicism guided her

Although most famed for being the queen of all things voodoo, Laveau was born and remained a follower of the Roman Catholic faith throughout her life: she was married by a Catholic priest (her marriage certificate is in the Catholic cathedral in New Orleans) and her children were baptised as Catholics.

05 Her power continues beyond the grave

A popular tourist spot, Laveau's reputed resting place is believed to still hold great magic today. It is said if you draw an X on the tomb, knock three times and ask a wish, it will be granted. Remember to circle the X if your wish comes true, and leave a gift for the voodoo queen in thanks.

MARIE CATHERINE LAVEAU

Brief Bio

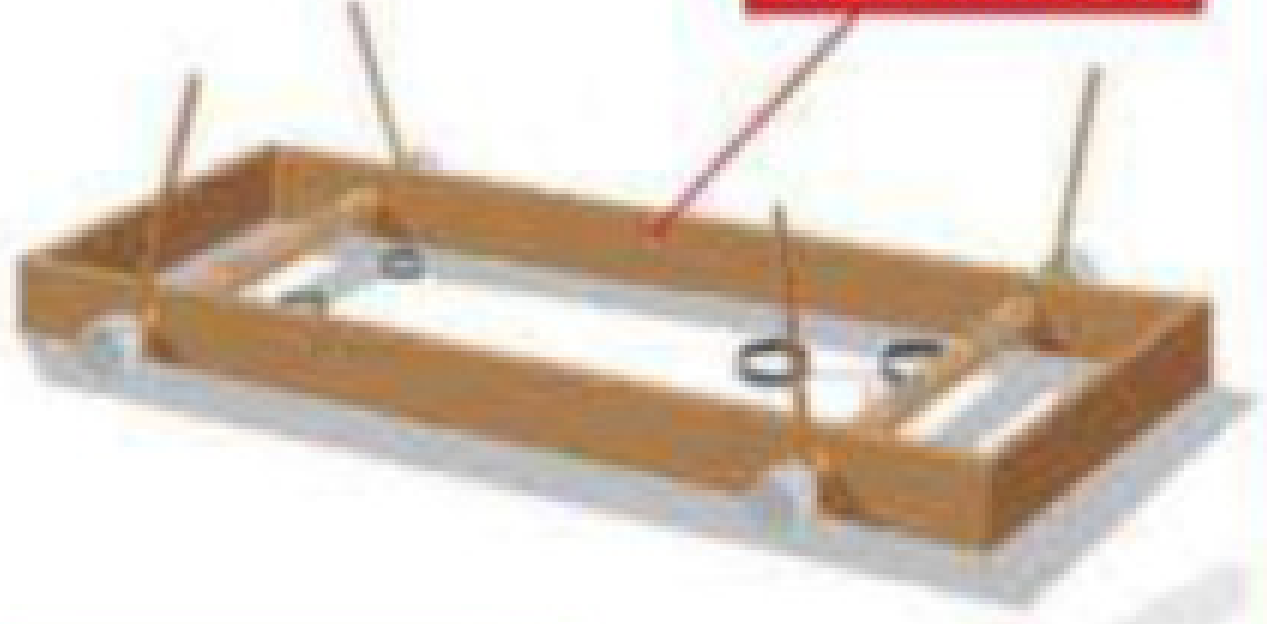
Born to a 'free woman of colour' and a mayor of New Orleans, Laveau made her home in that town, where she became known as the Voodoo Queen of New Orleans. Famed as an occultist and voodoo priestess throughout her life, her reputation has only grown in the years after her death.

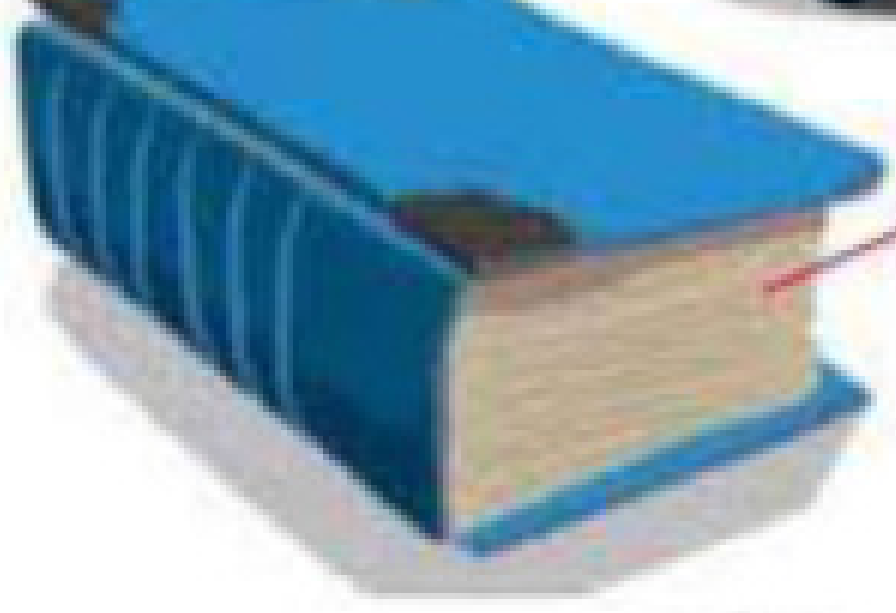
How to START A WITCH HUNT

RIDDING AN AREA OF UNWANTED WITCHES
SOUTHERN GERMANY, 1560-1650

The Catholic areas of southern Germany saw some of the most violent and large-scale witch persecutions known in Europe. The adoption of the more punitive Roman law, an unstable economic and political situation, and the lack of centralised power and control in the Holy Roman Empire at the time all contributed to the intensity of the hunts - it was not uncommon for entire families to be wiped out. The accused were initially from the lower orders but fingers were quickly pointed at the elite, with high-ranking men and women within the establishment also falling victim to the panic. They often met the same fate as those lower down the ranks before a panic ran its course.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED





SPOTTING A WITCH

Controlling the weather

Witches were responsible for calling up storms that damaged crops and ruined people's livelihoods.

Trusty broom

Essential for the witch to carry out her mischief and to take her to sabbats.

Ruinous wealth

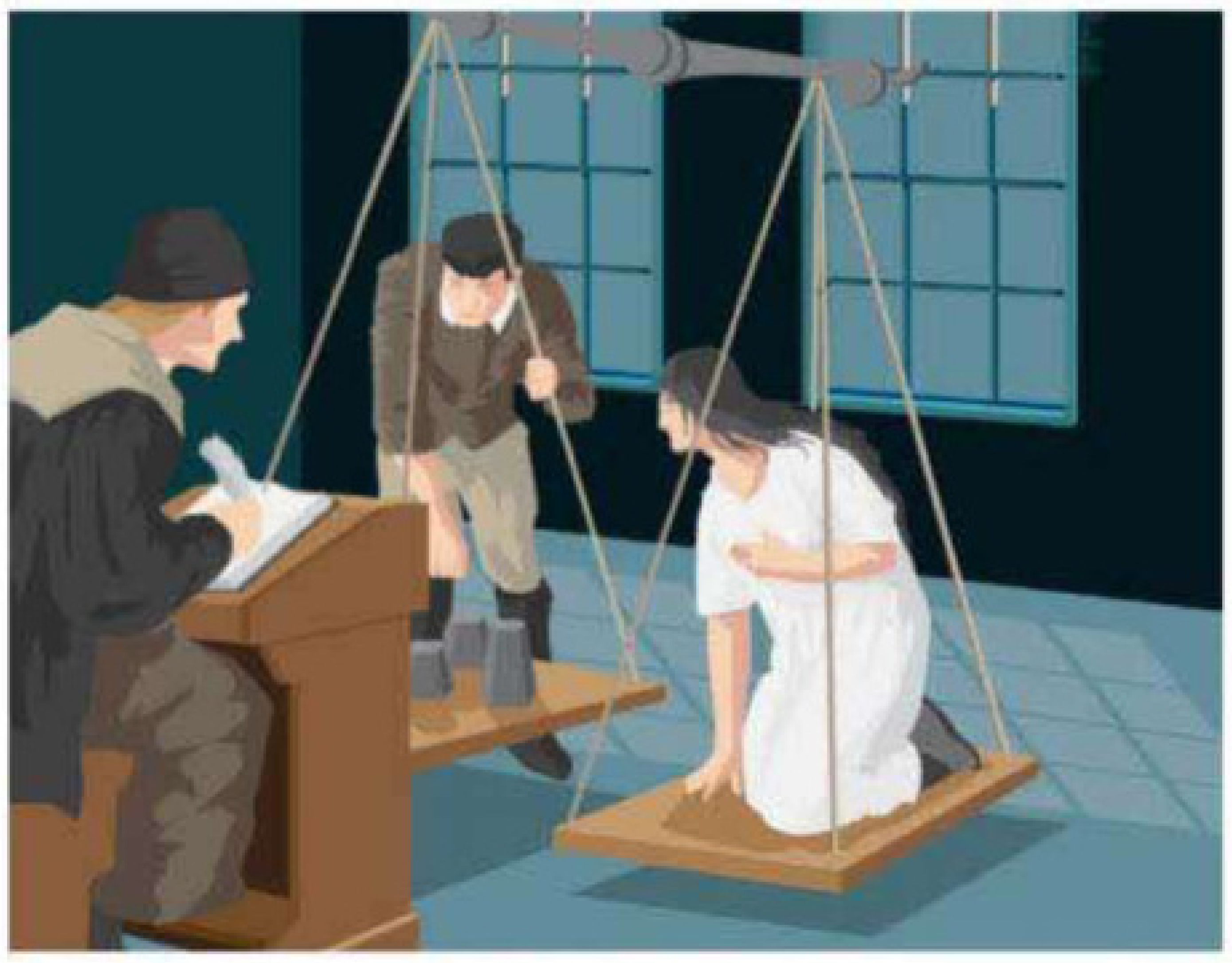
Conveniently, a witch might just happen to have land or possessions coveted by another, which would be forfeited once a conviction was secured.

Poisonous potions

Witches were adept poisoners, making good use of their knowledge of herbs and what could be done with them.

Devil's mark

The sign of a pact with the devil, this blemish was evidence that the suspect was guilty.



01 Hear accusations and make arrest

Listen to allegations against a suspected witch - these could be anything from infanticide, taking demon lovers, poisoning, passing through locked doors, flying, attending sabbats or raising storms. You don't need anything other than the accuser's word for an arrest, and the fact they may have a reason to have a grudge against the accused is irrelevant to you.

02 Test the accused

There are many ways to test whether someone is a witch: weigh them against the church *Bible* or a set of weights, dunk them in water to see if they float or sink (if guilty, the water will reject the witch), or test to see if the accused can say their prayers. These are just a few of the ways in which you can be sure you have the right person.

How not to... get carried away

Although the aim of a witch hunt was to rid an area of those who were working in league with Satan, sometimes there could be too much of a good thing. In 1581, in the German area of Trier, Archbishop Johann von Schönenburg initiated a series of witch trials that led to the area being thoroughly purged, as he targeted not only witches but also Jews and Protestants.

No one was safe - men, women and children, including those who held the most prominent places in the city of Trier were accused, arrested, tortured, tried and, in the majority of cases, burned. 368 people went to the flames from across 22 villages; by the end, the area was devastated, with whole families and communities obliterated. The hunt had done its work perhaps too well - two villages in the area had been so thoroughly cleansed that there was only one woman left alive in each.

03 Question the suspect

Once the accused has failed your tests, the aim now is to get them to confess. They don't need to be told who has accused them and you should work on the assumption that they are guilty from the outset. You also don't need to worry about providing counsel for the suspect, as allowing them to have defence is not a feature of such trials.

04 Torture

Suspects may be reluctant to talk, but employing torture to encourage them to do so can get the result you require. Hot pincers, strappado and the Spanish boots are just some of the methods available to you. The accused may take back their confessions once torture has stopped; don't hesitate to employ it again to get them to make fresh admissions.

05 Obtain a confession and incriminate others

By now the accused should be confessing without recourse to torture, and admitting to everything put before them. They may even add more details of their own accord. You now want them to name others guilty of the same crimes so that every last witch can be rooted out.

06 Execution

When the witch is found guilty, the outcome is usually clear. In some cases the condemned might be banished, but in most cases, burning at the stake - with or without beheading first - is the punishment for the crimes they have confessed to. Be prepared for the crowds, which will most likely be hostile to those going to meet their fate.

4 FAMOUS... GERMAN WITCH HUNTS

TRIER WITCH HUNTS

1581-93, TRIER, GERMANY

Thought to be the largest peacetime mass execution in Europe, as many as 1,000 may have been executed.

MAINZ WITCH TRIALS

1602-04, MAINZ, GERMANY

Spreading throughout the area and quickly escalating, the Mainz trials claimed 650 victims.

FULDA WITCH TRIALS

1603-06, FULDA, GERMANY

Orchestrated by the previously exiled Prince-abbot Balthasar, 276 people lost their lives before his death in 1605.

BAMBERG WITCH TRIALS

1626-31, BAMBERG, GERMANY

In one of the most famous European witch panics, about 1,000 people were executed in total during a five-year period.

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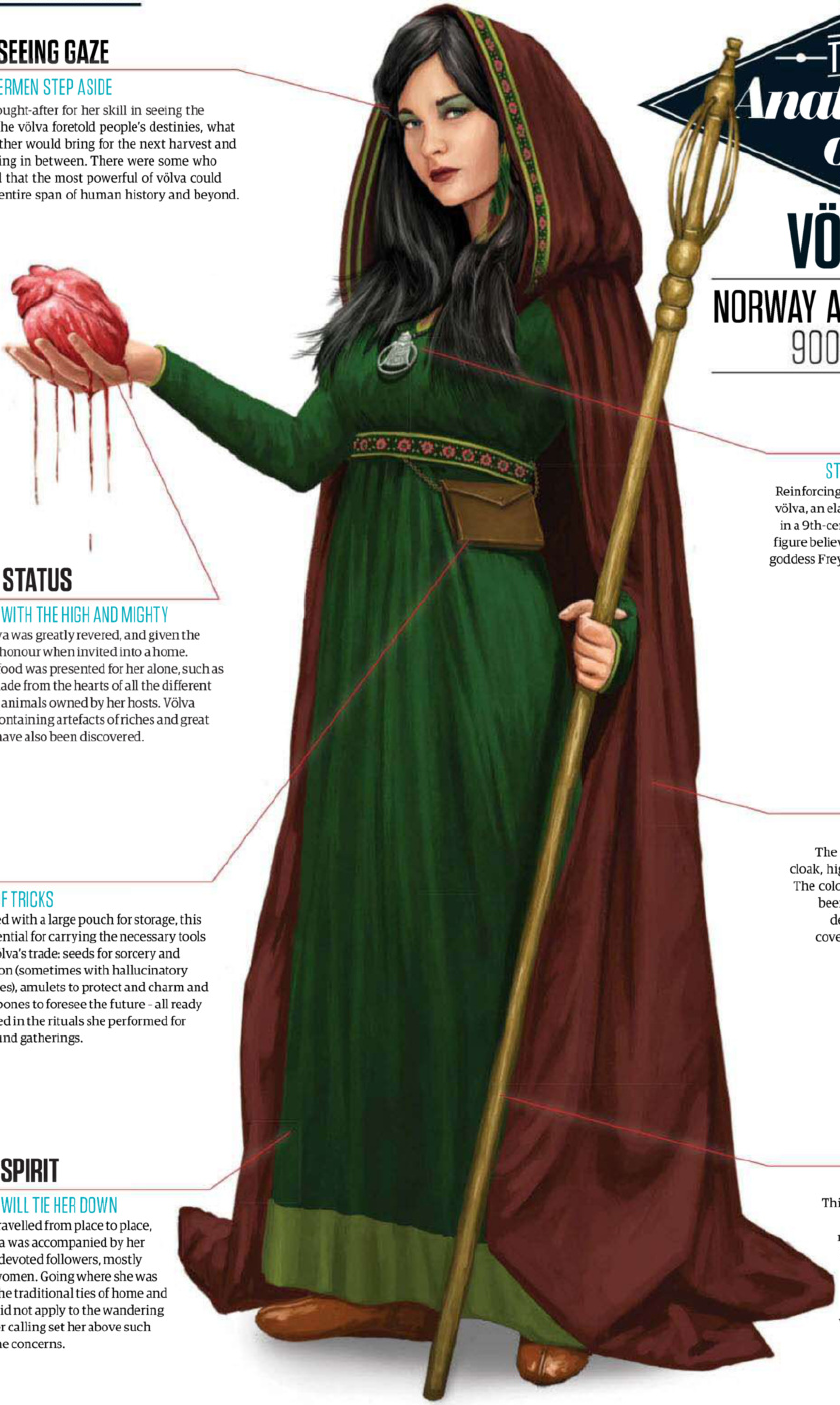
THE *Anatomy of* VÖLVA

NORWAY AND ICELAND

900-1000



FAR-SEEING GAZE

WEATHERMEN STEP ASIDE

Much sought-after for her skill in seeing the future, the völva foretold people's destinies, what the weather would bring for the next harvest and everything in between. There were some who believed that the most powerful of völva could see the entire span of human history and beyond.

HIGH STATUS

MIXING WITH THE HIGH AND MIGHTY

The völva was greatly revered, and given the place of honour when invited into a home. Special food was presented for her alone, such as a dish made from the hearts of all the different kinds of animals owned by her hosts. Völva graves containing artefacts of riches and great wealth have also been discovered.

BELT

A BAG OF TRICKS

Equipped with a large pouch for storage, this was essential for carrying the necessary tools of the völva's trade: seeds for sorcery and divination (sometimes with hallucinatory properties), amulets to protect and charm and animal bones to foresee the future – all ready to be used in the rituals she performed for spellbound gatherings.

FREE SPIRIT

NO ONE WILL TIE HER DOWN

As she travelled from place to place, the völva was accompanied by her band of devoted followers, mostly young women. Going where she was called, the traditional ties of home and family did not apply to the wandering seer – her calling set her above such mundane concerns.

SILVER PENDANT

STYLISH ACCESSORIES SHOW STATUS

Reinforcing the wealth and prestige accorded to a völva, an elaborate silver pendant was discovered in a 9th-century völva grave. The piece showed a figure believed to be a representation of the Norse goddess Freya, who was considered to be the most famous and powerful of all völva.

CLOAK

KEEP OUT THE COLD

The völva is often described as wearing a cloak, highlighting both her status and allure. The colour varied and does not seem to have been greatly significant, but one account describes a cloak of dark blue that was covered with stones and tied at the neck.

STAFF

A MAGICAL MUST-HAVE

This was the most essential of the völva's possessions from which she got her name – 'völva' means wand or magical staff carrier in old Norse. The wand or staff could be made from a variety of materials: one is described as decorated with brass and gems, while others were made of carved and decorated wood, iron or bronze.

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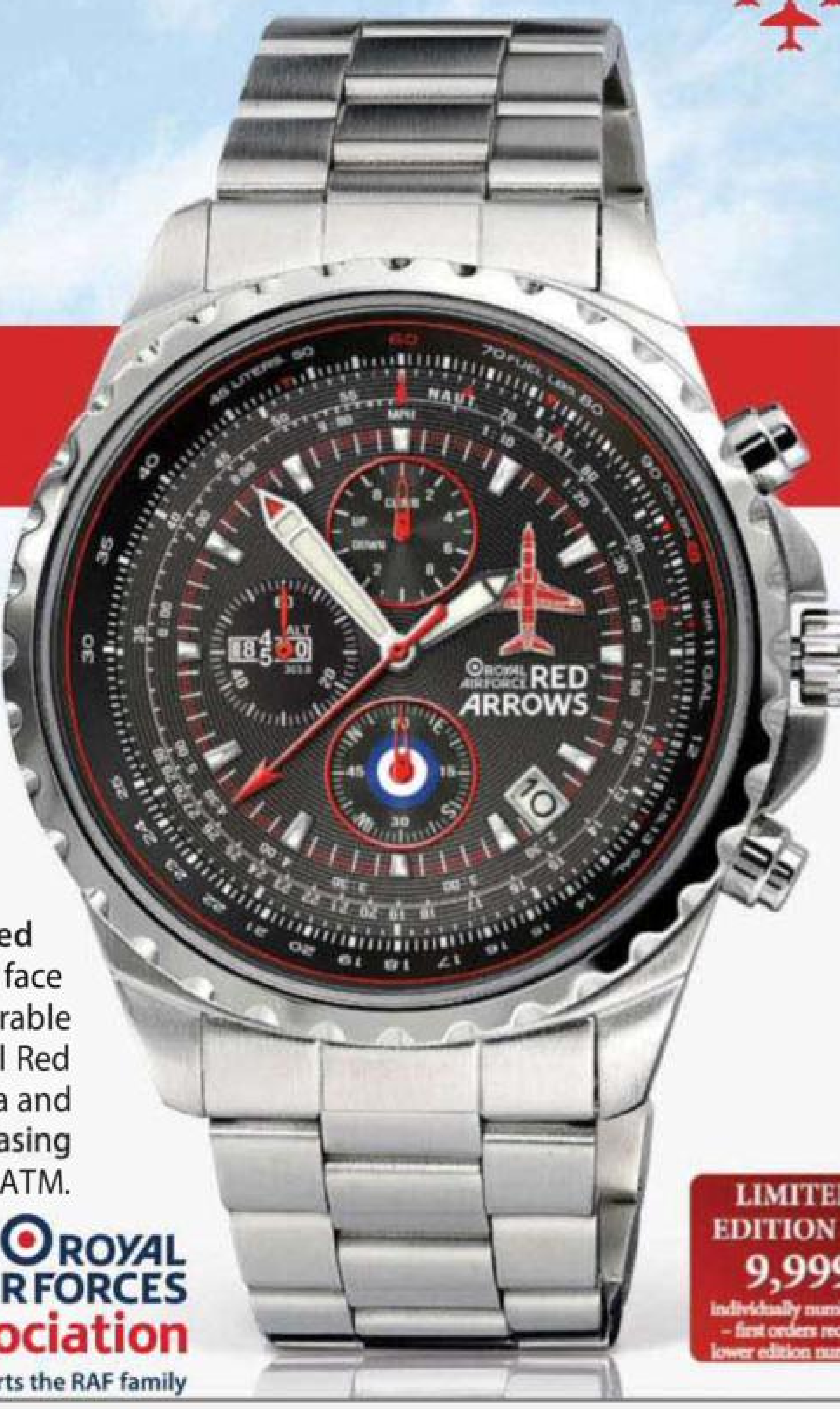

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THE SCANDALOUS RISE OF VICTORIA

Celebrated today as one of Britain's most beloved monarchs, Victoria overcame schemes, scandal and her own emotions to secure her place as the nation's queen

Written by Frances White

Never before had the coronation of a new British monarch drew such incredible crowds. Aided by the new railways ploughing through the country, 400,000 people travelled to London to see their new ruler crowned. The streets were bursting with loyal subjects – men, women and children eager to catch a glimpse of the young queen. The Gold State Coach – which had been used for coronations since George IV – was a sight to behold, gleaming in the summer sun and drawn by eight magnificent cream horses.

As it passed through the people, joyous shouts rang out and elegantly dressed ladies waved their handkerchiefs. All along the pavement were lines of foot and horse soldiers, while military bands played triumphant, celebratory music. Every seat was filled, every decorated balcony heavy with people, and every eye was fixed upon the woman sat within the glittering carriage.

The peers and peeresses in their robes of estate were already seated in the Abbey when the teenage queen arrived. She was dressed in a robe of crimson velvet trimmed with ermine and gold lace, bearing a gold circlet upon her head. She was shadowed by eight ladies who bore her train, and 50 more followed behind. The woman herself was small, incredibly short and just 19 years old. She held her head high and stepped lightly, everyone else towered over her, but with her quiet, royal demeanour, Victoria stood tallest of all.

The excitement surrounding the coronation was unusual: there was something special, something electric in the air. For the people who had suffered under the extravagance of her loathed uncles, this fair, bright-faced girl presented an opportunity – a chance for change and the dawn of a new age. For Victoria, the ceremony represented something entirely different, a much longed-for and finally obtained freedom.

When Victoria was born, the monarchy was in the midst of a mild ascension crisis. George III had plenty of children, 15 to be exact, but the untimely death of his heir, George IV's only child, the beloved Princess Charlotte, had left the future of the monarchy in some disarray. There were three older sons in line before Victoria's father, Edward, duke of Kent, but all bar one were aging rapidly and had no legitimate surviving heirs. Upon her birth, Victoria became fifth in line for the throne, and the first in line of the next generation.

The prince regent loathed his brother Edward so much that he found the thought of a child of his inheriting the throne utterly detestable. Although he agreed on the surface, standing in as godfather at her christening, he used his power to forbid any pomp or ceremony and also made a blacklist of 'unacceptable' names for the newborn - all of which happened to be used by the royal family. When the archbishop enquired what name she could be given, the regent reportedly retorted, "Alexandrina." This instance at the young child's christening, and her very name itself, began a tradition that Victoria would have to endure for many years: being pushed and led by men who wished to control her life. The prince wanted this child to garner no attention, he wanted her quietly and invisibly tucked away in a manor house until she could marry a foreign prince, and for a while, he would have his way.

Victoria and Albert would go on to have nine children

Victoria's father adored his daughter, and to the chagrin of his brother was quick to show her off at any fitting occasion. Unfortunately Edward died just eight months after her birth, leaving her with her mother, the Duchess of Kent, and excessive debt. With Victoria only third in line to the throne, the displaced mother and daughter were offered just a suite of rooms in the dilapidated Kensington Palace to live in. The duchess had a choice - return to her native Coburg with assured income from her first marriage, or take a chance on Victoria's possible ascension. However uncertain it may have been, she chose the latter. From the beginning, the duchess believed her child was fated for greatness. She was still young, beautiful and full of life, but she put all that aside and settled for a life of quiet retirement and devotion to her daughter.

The duchess was encouraged in no small part by her constant companion - John Conroy. He had served as Victoria's father's equerry, and after Edward's death became a close confidant and adviser to her mother. Conroy was a soldier who had attracted disdain through his skill to expertly dodge any actual battles. Although Conroy had been set up with a marriage designed to raise his position in society, he judged this inadequate and viewed Edward and his family as his ticket to power.

Victoria's father was likely wary of him, as he refused, despite much begging, to name Conroy his daughter's legal guardian upon his death. Although he was unsuccessful in obtaining guardianship of the young royal, his power over her mother meant that he was able to exert his will upon Victoria. Together they created an immensely strict set of rules known as the Kensington System that Victoria was expected to obey every day. Conroy was aware of the duchess's unpopular reputation, and worked hard to paint her as a doting, caring mother while whispering warnings in her ear about members of the royal family, fuelling her paranoia.

Though she was a bright, affable girl, Victoria's childhood was constrained and melancholy. Secretly Conroy would bully the young girl, insulting and mocking her at any opportunity, and his power over her mother prevented her from socialising with other children. The duchess likely didn't mean any ill will towards her daughter, but at a very young age she had lost the man she adored. As a lonely, fragile

RAISING A FUTURE MONARCH

Victoria was never meant to be queen. Her father, Prince Edward, duke of Kent, was the fourth son with a jaded past, and with so many brothers it was assumed he and his children would never see the throne. Victoria's mother, the duchess of Kent, was a princess of a German Principality, and no doubt wished to bear her husband a son, rather than the solitary daughter they had. With her father's death less than a year after her birth, her mother became the dominant figure in her childhood.

The Duchess was keen to give her daughter a respectable upbringing befitting any upper-class girl, and she was educated in languages, writing, music, history, drawing, arithmetic, geography and religion. Despite being described as energetic and warm-hearted, Victoria had few friends her own age and poured many thoughts into her now-famous journals.

Victoria's loneliness only worsened when it became apparent she would inherit the throne. Her mother's control over her increased massively, contributed to greatly by John Conroy. They created a strict set of rules known as the Kensington System. She was never allowed out of the sight of an adult, and her entire days were planned down to the minute. These rules were designed to keep the girl weak and dependant on her mother and Conroy.

However, this failed spectacularly. Victoria possessed a stronger will than they could have imagined, and she grew to resent the system, rules and even her own mother. She saved most of her hate for Conroy, though, later referring to him as a "monster" and "demon incarnate". When she became queen, Victoria was quick to expel him from her household, and her life, for good.

Victoria was devoted to her pets, especially her spaniel, Dash

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REPUBLICAN STIRRINGS IN BRITAIN

When Victoria ascended the throne, it wasn't just her inexperience that served as a barrier to success, but also her own people. Opinion of the monarchy was at an all-time low thanks to her predecessors and unpopular uncles.

This dislike of the royals had been a gradual decline going back to George III, who became the scapegoat for the loss of America. His recurring and debilitating mental illnesses did little to restore faith in the crown, while his son, George IV, made matters worse. Not only were his extra-marital affairs common knowledge, but he was seen as wasting the tax payers' money on his own frivolities. George lived a life of heavy drinking and indulgence at a time when his countrymen were fighting the Napoleonic Wars.

Far from a national hero, he became a figure of contempt and loathing, with constant public mockery of his obese appearance. One of the king's aides privately penned, "A more contemptible, cowardly, selfish, unfeeling dog does not exist… There have been good and wise kings but not many of them… and this I believe to be one of the worst." By comparison, William IV, Victoria's predecessor, was initially more popular. His coronation was a simple affair - a far cry from his brother's extravagance. However, his reign became dominated by the Reform crisis, which diminished his standing.

When Victoria was crowned it was to a public who regarded the monarchy as one of "general moral squalor." It is no stretch to say that she faced increasing Republican opinions, and her battle to regain the trust of her subjects would be a long one.

The Duke of Wellington, who was at the first privy council, wrote, "She not merely filled her chair, she filled the room"

"Her first request as monarch was for something that she had never before experienced - an hour alone"

soul, she quickly fell for the whims of an ambitious man who wanted to use her for his own ends, and it seems she was reluctant to believe the truth. Either way, the situation meant that every aspect of Victoria's life was controlled and, though in line to the throne, all power was taken from her.

The young Victoria had accepted her fate, but as she matured, her will began to harden. She was lively, effervescent, and growing acutely aware of her position in society and the duty that may one day fall upon her. When Victoria was 13, Conroy arranged for her to take a tour of the midlands in order to show her off to the public. King William IV, Victoria's uncle, disliked the trips, stating they portrayed the young girl as his rival rather than his heir, and Victoria shared his opinion.

She complained that the constant appearances were exhausting and she quickly fell ill. Conroy dismissed this illness, but when Victoria contracted a fever, he was quick to try and take advantage of her weakened state by pressing his candidacy as her personal secretary. However, Victoria, after years of control by a cruel man, told him no. From this day on the princess grew more stubborn, though she did not portray it outwardly, and remained the vision of a perfect Georgian lady. In private, she poured her frustrations into journals and waited for the day she could finally take control of her own life.

Although the duchess had fallen for them, Conroy's schemes didn't fool everyone. At what would be his final birthday banquet in 1836, William IV proclaimed to all - Victoria and her mother included - that he would live at least nine months longer in order to see his beloved niece on the throne, preventing her mother acting as regent and describing her as "surrounded by evil advisers". Victoria was so shocked she burst into tears. Nine months later, as promised, he was dead. Victoria had turned 18 just weeks before. Unfortunately for Conroy, the old man's sheer will had won out.

On the very morning of William's death, Victoria, wearing only a dressing gown, was informed she was queen. Her first request as monarch was for something that she had never before experienced - an hour alone. At 9am that morning, she received Lord Melbourne, the prime minster, "quite alone" in her room, where he kissed her hand repeatedly and spoke with her at length. Later that day at 9pm, she saw him again, writing, "I had a very important and a very comfortable conversation with him." Conroy had spent 18 years trying to control Victoria with manipulation and savagery; Melbourne, however, had won her heart with kind words and charm in under an hour.

Conroy had placed his bets on a malleable figure, but in Victoria he had looked in the wrong place.

Victoria was named Alexandrina after one of her godfathers, Emperor Alexander I of Russia

VICTORIA'S INNER CIRCLE

The men and women who played a prominent part in the monarch's earliest days

ARTHUR WELLESLEY, 1ST DUKE OF WELLINGTON

This famous military figure shared a close relationship with Victoria during her early years. He was not only fiercely loyal to her, but he also took on a fatherly role in advising her. Victoria later wrote of him, "He was the greatest man this country ever produced."

AUGUSTUS, DUKE OF SUSSEX

The sixth son of George III, Augustus was Victoria's favourite uncle, and was chosen to give her away at her wedding in place of her father. Because of this close relationship, she appreciated his advice, and when he caused controversy by marrying a non-royal, Victoria made his wife duchess of Inverness.

LEOPOLD I

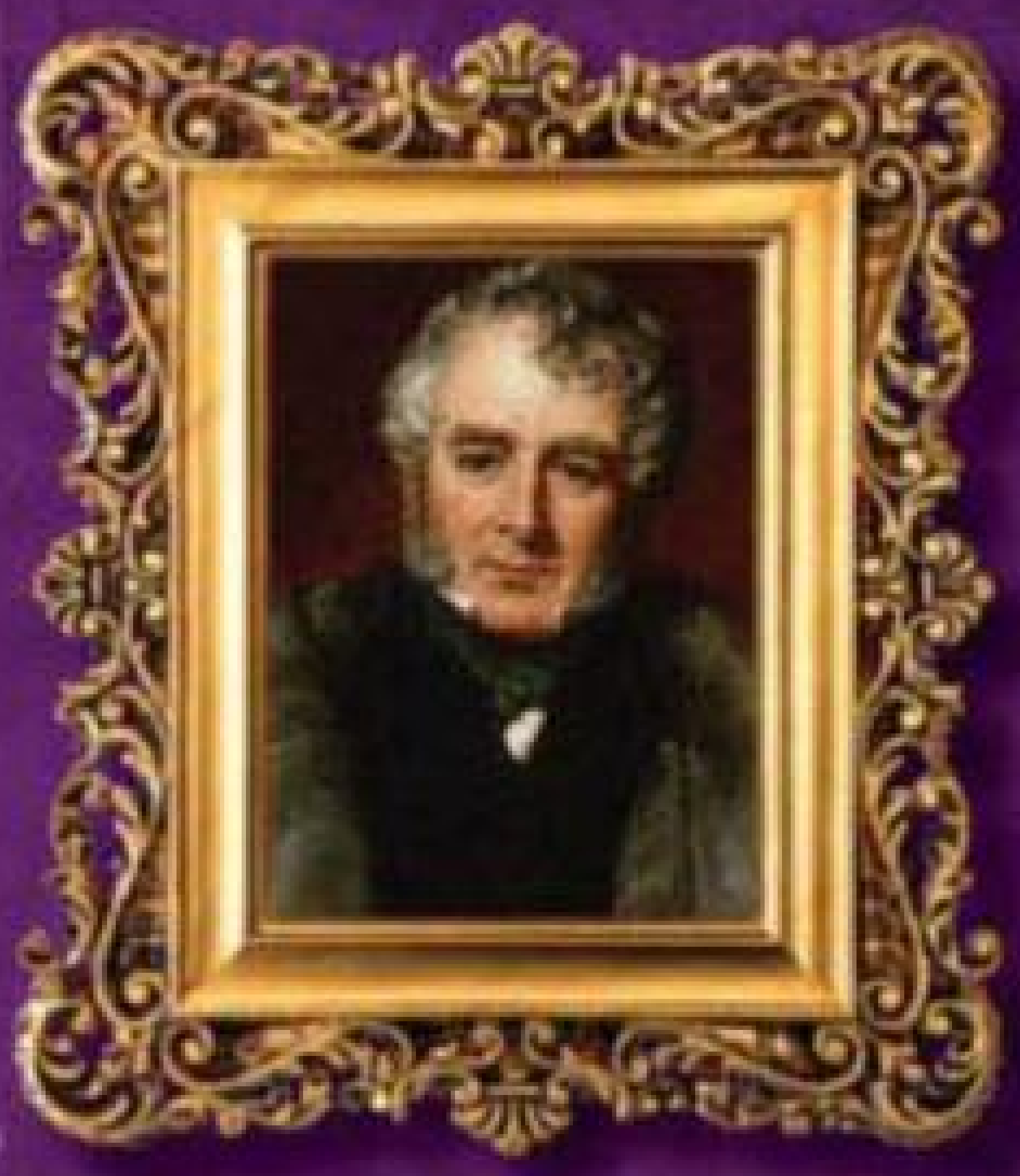
Victoria was fond of Leopold, her maternal uncle and king of the Belgians, and would often seek his advice during her early years as queen. Leopold, who had been married to Princess Charlotte, wrote letters to Victoria and it was he who arranged the marriage between her and Albert, his nephew.

ERNEST AUGUSTUS, KING OF HANOVER

The fifth son of George III, Ernest was made king of Hanover upon the death of his older brother, as Victoria was barred succession there on account of being a woman. Although they maintained an amicable outward appearance, in reality their relationship was a rocky one.

ALBERT, PRINCE CONSORT

Victoria's beloved Albert became not only her husband but also her most trusted adviser. Although ultimately he held no power as consort, Victoria left him responsible for running her household and sought his counsel frequently. He also took on many public roles and was hailed for his work in education reform and the abolition of slavery.



LORD MELBOURNE

An aristocratic Whig, Melbourne became prime minister in 1834, then again in 1835-39 and for a third and final time in 1839-41. He developed a close relationship with the young Victoria, serving as her adviser in matters of politics. This relationship would spark controversy for the queen and earn her the nickname 'Mrs Melbourne'.

VICTORIA OF SAXE-COBURG-SAALFELD

Victoria's mother was the prominent figure in her early years. However, when Victoria became queen, she sent her mother to separate accommodations far from her own. It wasn't until the birth of Victoria's first child that the duchess was welcomed back into the inner circle, where she remained.

BARONESS LEHZEN

Lehzen took over care of Victoria when she was just five years old and became devoted to the princess. Victoria, in turn, grew very close to her baroness; they shared a mutual distaste for her mother and Conroy. Lehzen enjoyed a prominent position in court when Victoria was crowned, serving as chief liaison.

SIR ROBERT PEEL

When Robert Peel, the Tory leader, came into power, Victoria was horrified due to her devotion to Melbourne. Upon Albert's careful coaching, Victoria became fond of Peel, and upon his death, proclaimed him "Worthy Peel, a man of unbounded loyalty, courage, patriotism and highmindedness."

JOHN CONROY

Conroy served as one of Victoria's first advisers, and he was very close to her mother, sparking rumours of more than friendship between the two. His efforts to install Victoria's mother as regent were thwarted, and Victoria was quick to expel her from her household upon becoming queen.

Storemags

Queen Victoria's wedding cake reportedly weighed 300 pounds

"For the first time Victoria made it clear that she was not to be pushed any longer"

Upon moving to Buckingham Palace, Victoria did everything in her power to keep Conroy and her mother far away from her, denying the ambitious servant of the power and place in her court he so desired. When her mother objected, Victoria responded, "I thought you would not expect me to invite Sir John Conroy after his conduct towards me for some years past." It's easy to see why Conroy may have thought her a soft touch - she was a tiny, plain girl, somewhat shy and wholly inexperienced - but beneath her mild exterior she harboured a will of fire, and for the first time Victoria made it clear that she was not to be pushed any longer. Conroy was expelled from the queen's household.

Victoria was the first monarch to live in Buckingham Palace and, far from the splendour we associate with the building today, it was in a terrible state of disrepair. The lavatories were not well ventilated and hundreds of the windows were impossible to open. Just a teenager, Victoria was alone in a new place without the two people, however much she despised them, who had been the strongest influences on her life thus far, and to top it off, faced the most monumental role any individual could play. It is likely that this fear encouraged Victoria to attach herself so fiercely to her most beloved companion, Melbourne.

She wasn't used to kindness, especially not from men, and Melbourne was not only considerate but he flattered her - he assured her that all her insecurities - her size, inexperience and shyness - were advantages. He treated the young woman with a tenderness she had seldom felt, spending hours every night writing to her, and for this she admired and loved him greatly. When Victoria held her first privy council, hours after being told she was now queen, she was an 18-year-old surrounded by the most influential and experienced men in British politics. Even if she did later proclaim herself "not at all nervous", she must have felt comfort in the assurance that, from now on, she could steady herself on Melbourne's arm.

The two quickly grew inseparable. Melbourne, 40 years her senior, was a childless widow, and it is likely he saw Victoria as a kind of surrogate daughter. As the diarist Charles Greville wrote, he was "...passionately fond of her." What this relationship meant to Victoria, however, is up for debate. It is of no doubt she lacked a father figure in her life, and she herself proclaimed to have loved him "like a father," but it's possible the young woman's feelings were complex. She was new to the realm of romance and, as demonstrated in her later life, easily wooed by charismatic men. Greville too suggested that the young queen's feelings may have been romantic, "...though she did not know it." Victoria was, after all, incredibly professional and dictated by her duties. Even if she did feel some attraction to her witty, adoring minister, it is unlikely she would have acted upon it.

A year after she ascended the throne, Victoria was officially crowned at Westminster Abbey, attracting

FASHION QUEEN

Ruling the world's largest empire with style

1837

BECOMING QUEEN

Lord Hatherton wrote of this gown, "...dressed in a plain black silk gown with a white muslin collar and a thin black scarf. I never saw her look so well."

1838

CORONATION

Victoria presented a striking regal picture during her coronation, draped in a royal crimson robe with ermine fur and bordered with gold lace.

1840

CEREMONIAL EVENTS

Victoria would often wear this riding habit when reviewing troops. Elizabeth II continued this tradition by wearing a similar style for the same purpose.

1840

WEDDING TO ALBERT

For her wedding, Victoria chose a white dress, very unusual for the time as most brides wore vibrant colours, setting a trend for countless brides to follow.

1851

OPENING OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE

Victoria often wore flounced skirts that widened the bottom silhouette and made the top appear narrower; this shape became a distinctive trend.

1855

STATE VISIT TO FRANCE

Victoria loved to make a bold impression when meeting foreign dignitaries; she wore this elaborate dress while meeting Napoleon III.

1861

MOURNING DRESS

After Alfred's death, Victoria abandoned her eclectic love for fashion and instead donned the iconic black mourning dress for her remaining 40 years.

unprecedented crowds. For the people watching, there was much at stake - the monarchy had fallen out of favour thanks to the excessive extravagance and general unpopularity of her uncles, and in a way, a youthful woman with silent professionalism was a breath of fresh air. At one point in the ceremony, the 82-year-old Lord Rolle fell down the steps and Victoria immediately advanced towards him to prevent him hurting himself further. This simple act of kindness caused a sensation in the public who had never witnessed such naiveté and good-naturedness in their monarch before. Victoria wasn't excessive, she was a tiny, dignified lady with a strong presence and the public instantly adored her. Melbourne adored her too; he stood by her side for the entire ceremony.

Public opinion of Victoria was at a high, but opinion, as many of her predecessors realised, could change as quickly as the wind. Victoria was absolutely ruled by emotion and she was fiercely loyal to Melbourne, and these traits would see public opinion plummet. In 1839, one of Victoria's mother's ladies in waiting, Lady Flora, experienced swelling in her lower abdomen and soon enough the rumour spread that she was pregnant, a rumour that Melbourne did nothing to quell. Victoria, not overly fond with Flora to begin with, immediately suspected the much-loathed Conroy as the father. When Flora finally agreed to an examination, it was revealed that she in fact had cancer of the liver. The entire affair was overblown by the public and the image of the naive, gentle Victoria was tarnished. At Flora's funeral, the queen's carriage was stoned, she was hissed at in public and when she appeared at Ascot, there were cries of "Mrs Melbourne!"

Melbourne, though a valuable tutor to Victoria, seemed more eager to flatter than give her a hard truth. Their close relationship suffered a blow in May 1839 when Melbourne was forced to resign after a bill was narrowly passed in the House of Commons. Victoria was distraught, and it was with great reluctance that she asked the Tory leader, Robert Peel, to form a government. Peel agreed to do so on the condition that she dismiss many of her Whig-leaning ladies in waiting, and replace them with Tories. Victoria, already despairing over losing her dear Melbourne, refused to give up her remaining close companions. This meant that Peel in turn refused to become prime minister and Melbourne, through much persuasion, remained in the position. Just two years on the throne, emotional and fearing loneliness at court, Victoria let her passions guide her and it proved to be a grave political blunder, doing little to help her public image as Melbourne's

VICTORIA'S DEFINING DAYS

Victoria informed she is queen 1837

At 9 came Lord Melbourne, whom I saw in my room, and of course quite alone, as I shall always do all my Ministers. He kissed my hand, and I then acquainted him that it had long been my intention to retain him.. at the head of affairs, and that it could not be in better hands than his. He again then kissed my hand. He then read to me the Declaration which I was to read to the Council, which he wrote himself, and which is a very fine one. I then talked with him some little time longer, after which he left me.. I like him very much and feel confidence in him. He is a very straightforward, honest, clever and good man.. At about 11 Lord Melbourne came again to me, and spoke to me upon various subjects.

Coronation day 1838

It was a fine day, & the crowds of people exceeded what I have ever seen.. There were millions of my loyal subjects, assembled in every spot, to witness the Procession. Their good humour & excessive loyalty was beyond everything. I really cannot say how proud I felt to be the Queen of such a nation.. There followed all the various ceremonies, ending by the Crown being placed on my head, which I must own was the most beautiful, impressive moment. All the Peers & Peeresses put on their coronets, at the same instant. My excellent Lord Melbourne, who stood very close to me throughout the whole ceremony was quite overcome at this moment, & gave me such a kind, & I may say, fatherly look.

Wedding night 1840

He took me on his knee, and kissed me and was so dear and kind.. I never, never spent such an evening!! My dearest dearest dear Albert sat on a footstool by my side, and his excessive love and affection gave me feelings of heavenly love and happiness, I never could have hoped to have felt before! He clasped me in his arms, and we kissed each other again and again! His beauty, his sweetness and gentleness, really how can I ever be thankful enough to have such a Husband!.. we both went to bed; (of course in one bed), to lie by his side, and in his arms, and on his dear bosom, and be called by names of tenderness, I have never yet heard used to me before - was bliss beyond belief! Oh! this was the happiest day of my life!

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN

Victoria faced many potential assassins during her reign

Despite being one of the most beloved monarchs in British History, Victoria ruled at a time of great social change and upheaval. Not everyone was satisfied with her reign, and as such a powerful symbol of empire, she found herself at the end of a barrel many times.

Edward Oxford 1840

Victoria and Albert were travelling in a carriage along Constitution Hill when a young man fired twice upon the carriage before being seized. Oxford was deemed insane and confined "at her majesty's pleasure."

John Francis 1842

In a very similar attempt to the first, a man attempted to fire at the royal couple in their carriage. He was apprehended by a police officer, and as he tried to seize the pistol, it went off. Francis was sentenced to death, but Victoria changed this to transportation.

John William Bean 1842

Bean, a humpbacked boy, pushed his way to the front of a crowd and brandished a pistol at the royal couple. He said he did not intend to shoot her, but wished to be transported. He was imprisoned for 18 months.

William Hamilton 1849

Again the royal carriage was fired on as it travelled down Constitution Hill, but this time the queen was alone. The shooter was a poor Irishman, and although the police did not view the attempt to be serious, he was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

Robert Pate 1850

Victoria, while with three of her children, was struck on the head with a cane. The mob that seized the attacker was so furious the police had trouble apprehending the man. Although of unsound mind, Pate was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

Arthur O'Connor 1872

In the gardens of Buckingham Palace, a young boy pointed a pistol at Victoria's head. He told her to sign a Fenian document, but the queen merely bowed her head. He was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and 20 strokes with a birch rod.

Roderick McLean 1882

This final attempt occurred when the queen was entering her carriage at Windsor. A man fired upon her but Victoria was quick to inform her son, "I am nothing the worse." The Irish shooter was acquitted on the grounds of insanity.

Victoria's coronation didn't go entirely to plan – a ring was placed on the incorrect finger and took hours to remove

There were few pretensions of Victoria's beauty: she was often described as "short, fat and plain"

pawn. The sweet, caring girl was, in the public's eye, transforming in to a stubborn, cruel matriarch.

What Victoria needed was security. It wasn't that she was a weak person, far from it, but she had endured so many years of solitude that to have a friendly person to guide her was akin to a knight in shining armour. Melbourne had fit the bill at first, but he was aging, and as the Bedchamber Crisis proved, could be out of her life with a single vote. Victoria needed a relationship more concrete, else risk losing not only her kingdom, but herself. Victoria needed a husband.

The match between Victoria and Albert had been crafted years ago, she had already met him aged 17, and had been immediately drawn to him. However, she was somewhat resistant towards rushing into marriage after only just obtaining her independence. In late 1839, Albert visited her again and she fell for him completely. Not only was he dashing and charming, but he was educated – an essential trait for her future husband – and perhaps even more importantly for the hot-tempered queen, he was patient. Within five days, Victoria, ever led by her heart, had proposed to him.

Many of her journal entries paint the courtship akin to a fairy tale, with the dashing prince sweeping her off her feet, which although is likely, it was also a fiery and passionate relationship. Victoria was renowned for having a short fuse, and Albert often found himself on the receiving end of it. Unlike Melbourne, who often took the easy route in saying what the queen wanted to hear, Albert was honest, and he pushed the issues that meant the most to him, notably regarding the poor, no matter how uncomfortable it made Victoria feel. In this way, Albert and Melbourne were both advisers and tutors, but Albert was something the prime minister was not: Victoria's moral guidance.

As Victoria grew closer to Albert, she in turn became less reliant on Melbourne. In her youth he had been her support and shoulder to lean on, but the maturing queen was quickly learning there were others she could turn to. We know Victoria's story, she recorded it in pages and pages of her journals, but Melbourne's emotions are lost to history. We can only imagine how he felt as his companion and co-conspirator drifted away from him. Whether it was with sadness or pride, Melbourne stood and watched as Victoria married another.

> "Many of her journal entries paint the courtship akin to a fairy tale, with the dashing prince sweeping her off her feet"

Victoria's wedding was the first of a British queen for 300 years, and she broke tradition by wearing a heavy satin dress entirely in white. At her chest she wore a sapphire brooch given to her by her fiancé. Like an echo of the day she was crowned, the crowds were so large they engulfed London. Once more the people were jubilant, and they cried her name not in hatred but in admiration. Albert had already begun to do great things for Victoria's popularity, and through sheer will and determination he would overcome the odds and obtain the public's love himself.

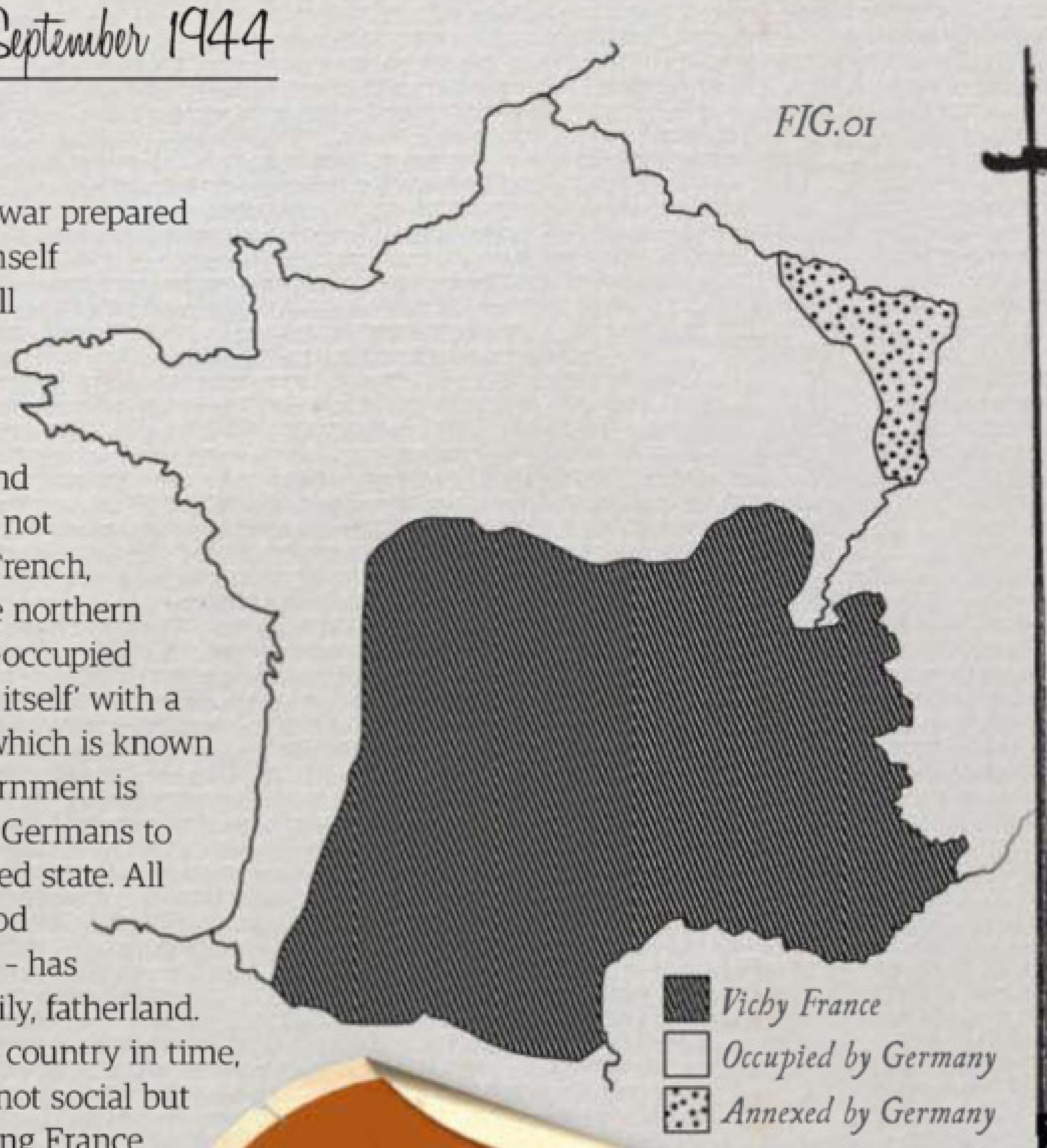
For Victoria the day was "the happiest day of my life!" Indeed, with Albert at her side, it finally felt as if the years of political mistakes and scandal were finally in the past. For now Victoria could look fondly to the future, but little did the queen know, the biggest test of her life was to come, and it was one she would have to face completely and utterly alone.

Time Traveller's Handbook
VICHY FRANCE

France, July 1940 – September 1944

France had not entered the war prepared to lose, not even Hitler himself expected the country to fall so easily. It took just six weeks for the invaders to come crashing through the Maginot Line and claim the land as their own. The Germans do not wish to make enemies of the French, so they are only occupying the northern section of the country. The un-occupied zone has been allowed to 'rule itself' with a non-democratic government, which is known as the Vichy regime. This government is wilfully collaborating with the Germans to turn France into a Nazi-approved state. All sense of what France once stood for - liberty, equality, fraternity - has been abandoned for work, family, fatherland. For those unable to escape the country in time, the most pressing matters are not social but economical. Germany is draining France of its natural resources, coal and food, and has given its citizens limited rations that provide less than the recommended daily calorie intake. This has left the people of France with one option: they must take their survival into their own hands.

FIG.01



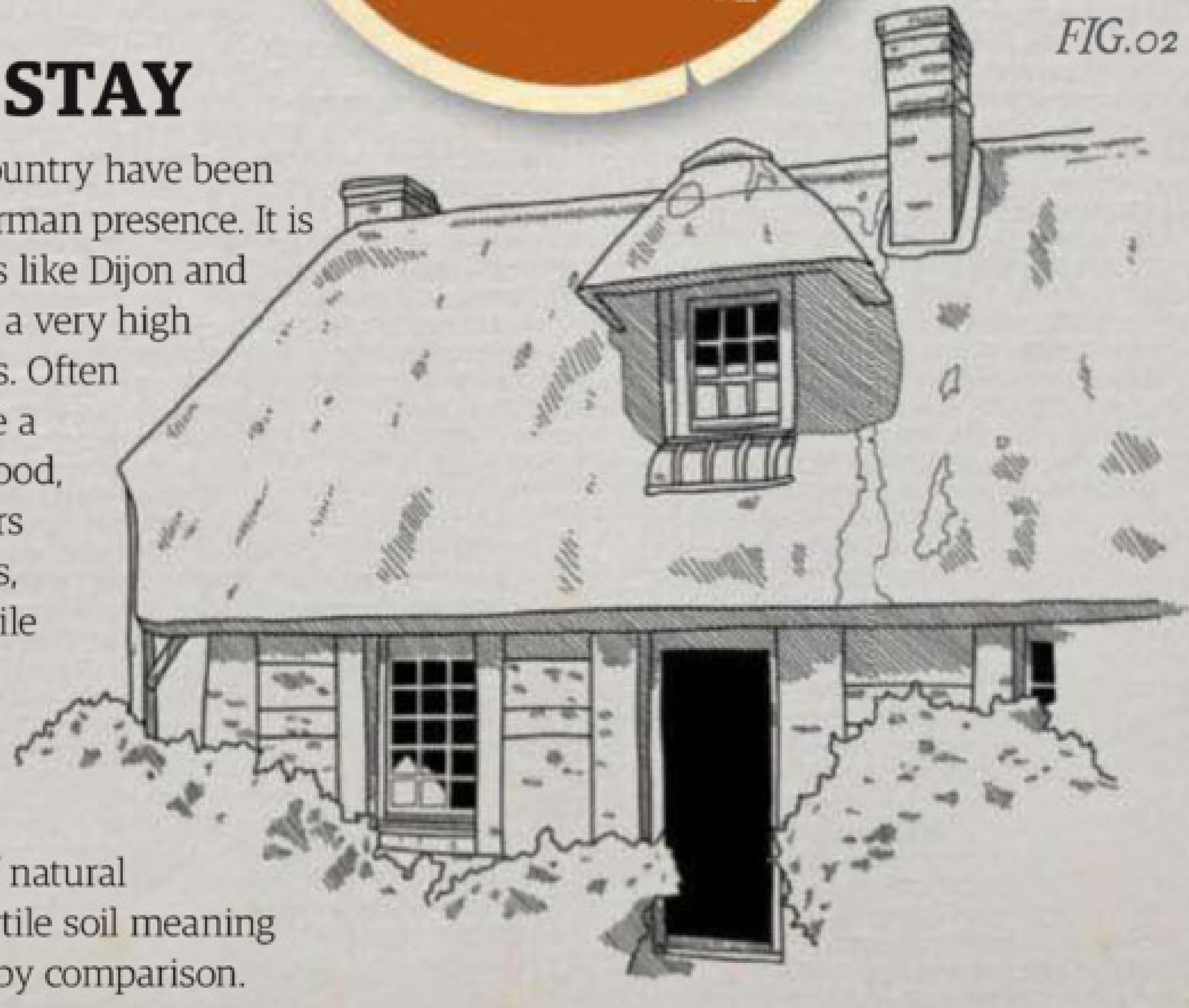
Did you know?

The black market doesn't just operate with money, you can trade items you have there as well

WHERE TO STAY

The urban areas of the country have been hit the hardest by the German presence. It is best to avoid the big cities like Dijon and Bordeaux, which all have a very high concentration of Germans. Often the urban zones will have a severe shortage of basic food, causing some city dwellers to resort to eating pigeons, cats and Guinea pigs. While life in the country is not easy, particular areas have far fewer German soldiers. The countryside also has the advantage of natural game, and places with fertile soil meaning relatively mild shortages by comparison.

FIG.02



Dos & don'ts

☑ **Join a queue.** The long queues for rations are often the best place to obtain information, rumours of war or black market intel. At the very least they're a chance to have social contact in a reasonably secure place.

☑ **Exploit family ties.** The marche amical is a smaller market with trading between family members in the country and the city. Country relatives send their urban family members care packages known as colis familiaux.

☑ **Use the black market.** You're strictly breaking the law but everyone in France uses it; without it you will struggle to survive.

☑ **Be creative.** The food shortage means the more inventive you can be, the better: acorns in place of coffee beans and boiling pumpkins in place of sugar are just a few examples.

☒ **Be generous.** Suppliers who give out more than their allowance are often closed down for weeks and face surveillance from the Nazis.

☒ **Break the law.** The Germans have imposed a long list of forbidden behaviour: listening to English radio, taking photographs outdoors and assembling without permission are all prohibited.

☒ **Be in a low social class.** Those of a higher social class are, on the whole, treated with more respect. This is especially true for women, who are sometimes seen as sexual toys.

☒ **Try to leave.** Crossing the line between north and south France is very difficult as you'll need an identity card or free-movement card, which are notoriously difficult to obtain.

WHO TO BEFRIEND

A farmer

The main issue facing people in Vichy France is food shortages, so the ideal friend to have is a farmer, who has ready access to fresh produce. The black market for food is huge, so by having a connection, you may be able to acquire supplies at a cheaper price. Although it may be tempting to start your own black market dealings, playing the role of supplier is very dangerous indeed, and if discovered, you could face severe penalties.

Extra tip:
Although befriending your new German neighbours may seem a good idea (to get them on side), it is advisable to avoid this at all costs. It is better to not be noticed at all by the German occupiers, and many French citizens follow the same silent agreement to behave as if the occupier, and, in hand, the war itself, do not exist.

FIG.03

WHO TO AVOID

The Resistance

With the harsh conditions you are put under by the government, you may be tempted to join one of the anti-German Resistance groups. While this is certainly admirable, it is not the path to follow if you want to survive. If you are discovered to be a Resistance member, the punishment will be brutal. Even associating with known Resistance members could land you in deep trouble with the Milice, the Vichy militia tasked with tracking down the rebels. The Milice are not afraid to use torture and even execute their captives. Joining the Resistance also risks putting the rest of the population in danger, as the Nazis often use collective punishment, where many people are shot, in retaliation to Resistance crimes.

FIG.04

Helpful Skills

You must use every asset at your disposal to survive the four long years of occupation

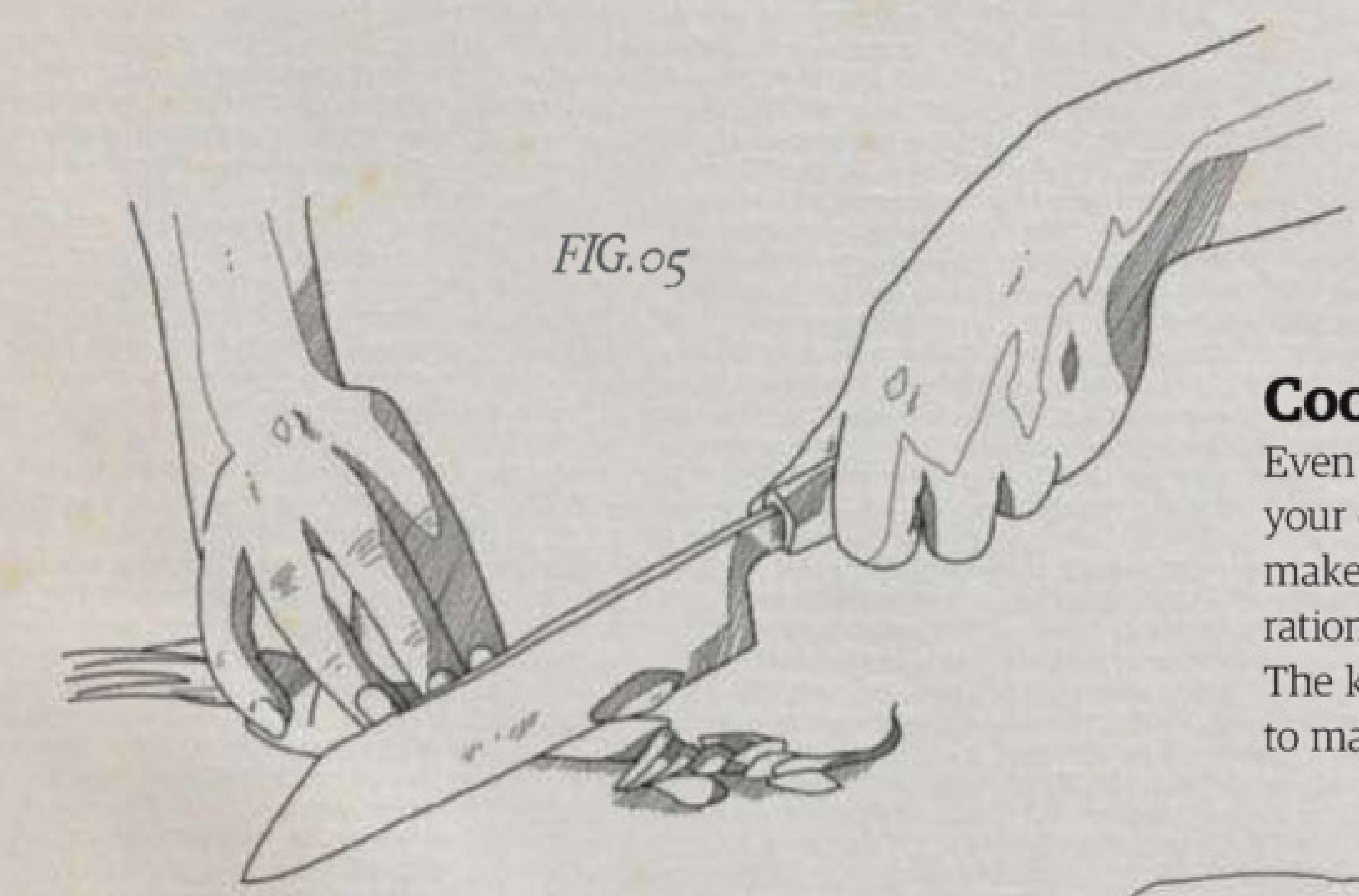


FIG.05

Cooking

Even if you're unable to grow your own food, the ability to make the most of your limited rations will serve you well. The key to survival is the skill to make a little go a long way.

FIG.06

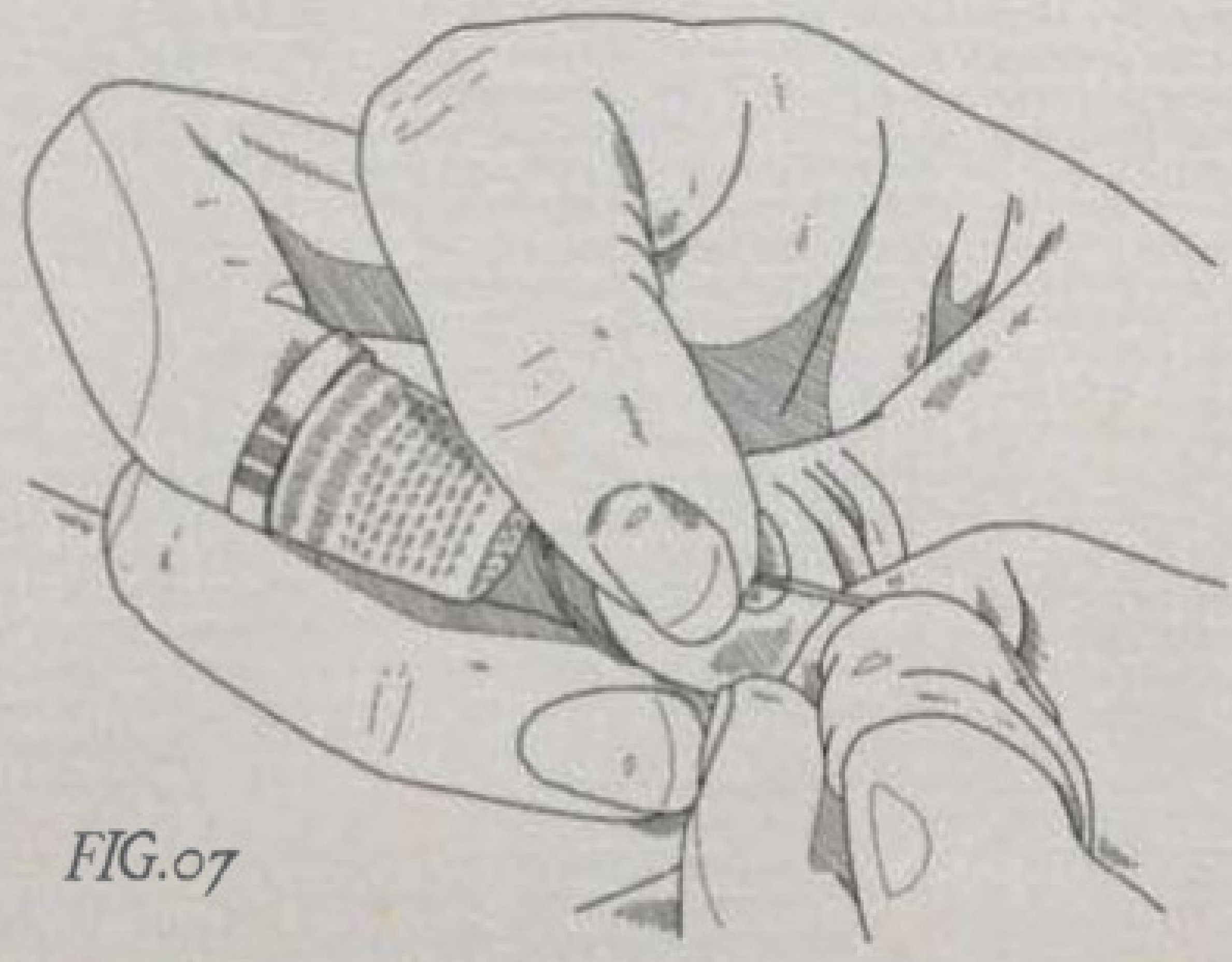


FIG.07

Tailoring

Food isn't the only thing in demand, clothing is also heavily rationed, and the skills to make your own clothes out of fabric will mean you can trade clothing rations for food ones.

Farming

While you should avoid becoming a supplier, if you're able to grow and harvest your own food you can overcome the limited German rations.

StoreMags

THE REAL DRACULA

VLAD THE IMPALER

Was the Medieval warlord a bloodthirsty psychopath or the saviour of Europe?

Written by Catherine Curzon

Romania's Medieval warlord is known by many names, all of them infamous. To some he is Vlad III, to others, Vlad Drăculea, while history has recorded him rather more notoriously as Vlad the Impaler and even, most famously of all, Dracula. It's a moniker that hints at his bloodlust and preferred method of execution: skewering his victims on stakes and leaving their rotting remains to line the forest. The famed 'forest of the impaled' served as a warning to the Turks, and these terror tactics allegedly frightened away an invading Ottoman army. Vlad was willing to go to extreme lengths to keep the lands that had taken years to bring under his control.

The infamous Impaler was also known to boil, burn and disembowel his enemies - and yet he was remembered by some as a national hero, an orthodox Christian who tried to stop the spread of Islam. It wasn't just the Turkish enemy that felt the wrath of the Balkan warlord, however. Any man, woman or child who committed a crime, from adultery to stealing, would be punished. As a test, Vlad placed a golden cup in the square of Târgoviște and no one dared to steal it throughout his reign. His fascinating story offers a glimpse back to a time of conflict, when one man could be a devil to some and a saviour to others.

Illustration: Jean-Michel

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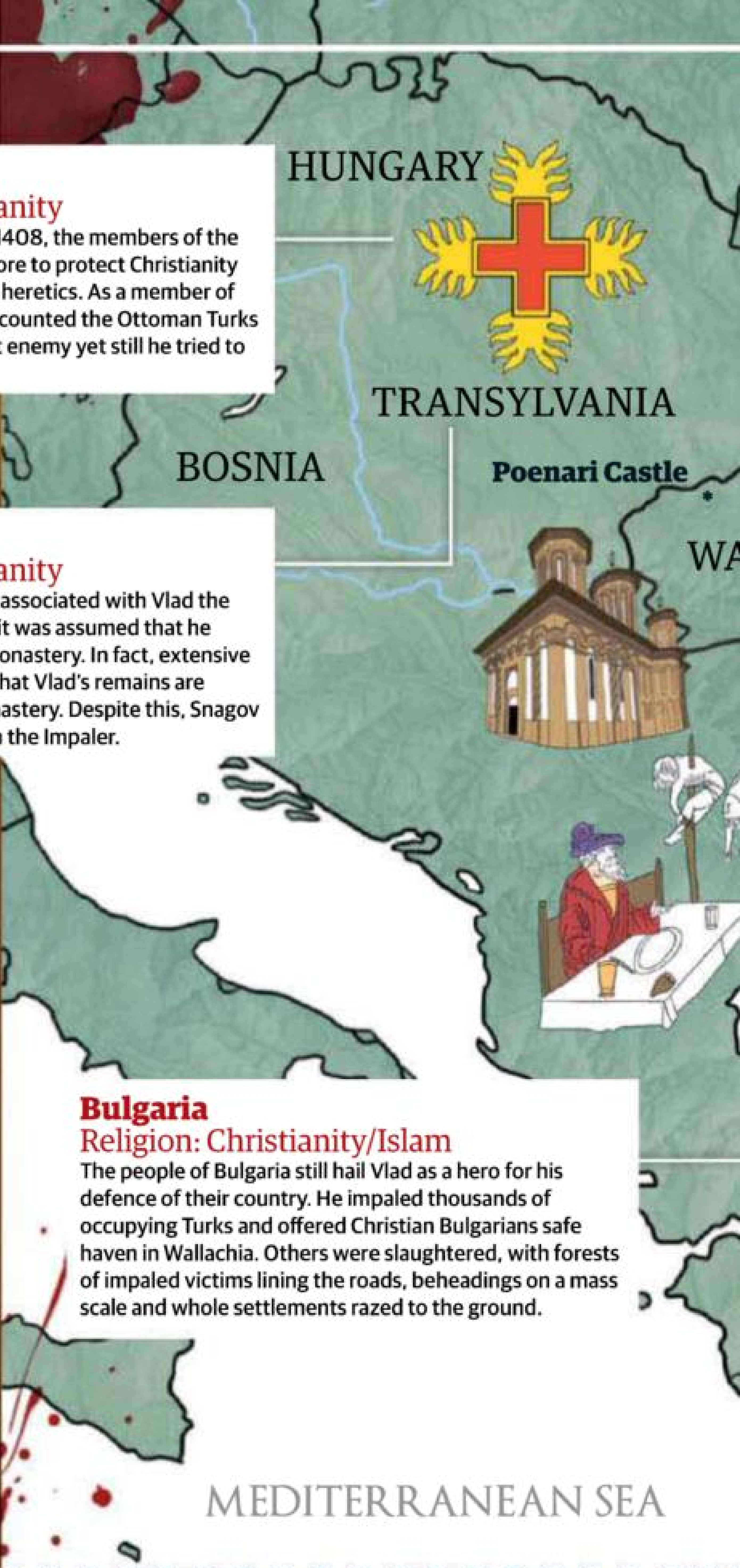


Hungary
Religion: Christianity
Founded in Hungary in 1408, the members of the Order of the Dragon swore to protect Christianity against other faiths and heretics. As a member of the Order, Vlad's father counted the Ottoman Turks as his country's greatest enemy yet still he tried to appease them.

Transylvania
Religion: Christianity
Perhaps the place most associated with Vlad the Impaler, for a long time it was assumed that he was buried at Snagov monastery. In fact, extensive investigations suggest that Vlad's remains are actually in Comana monastery. Despite this, Snagov remains associated with the Impaler.

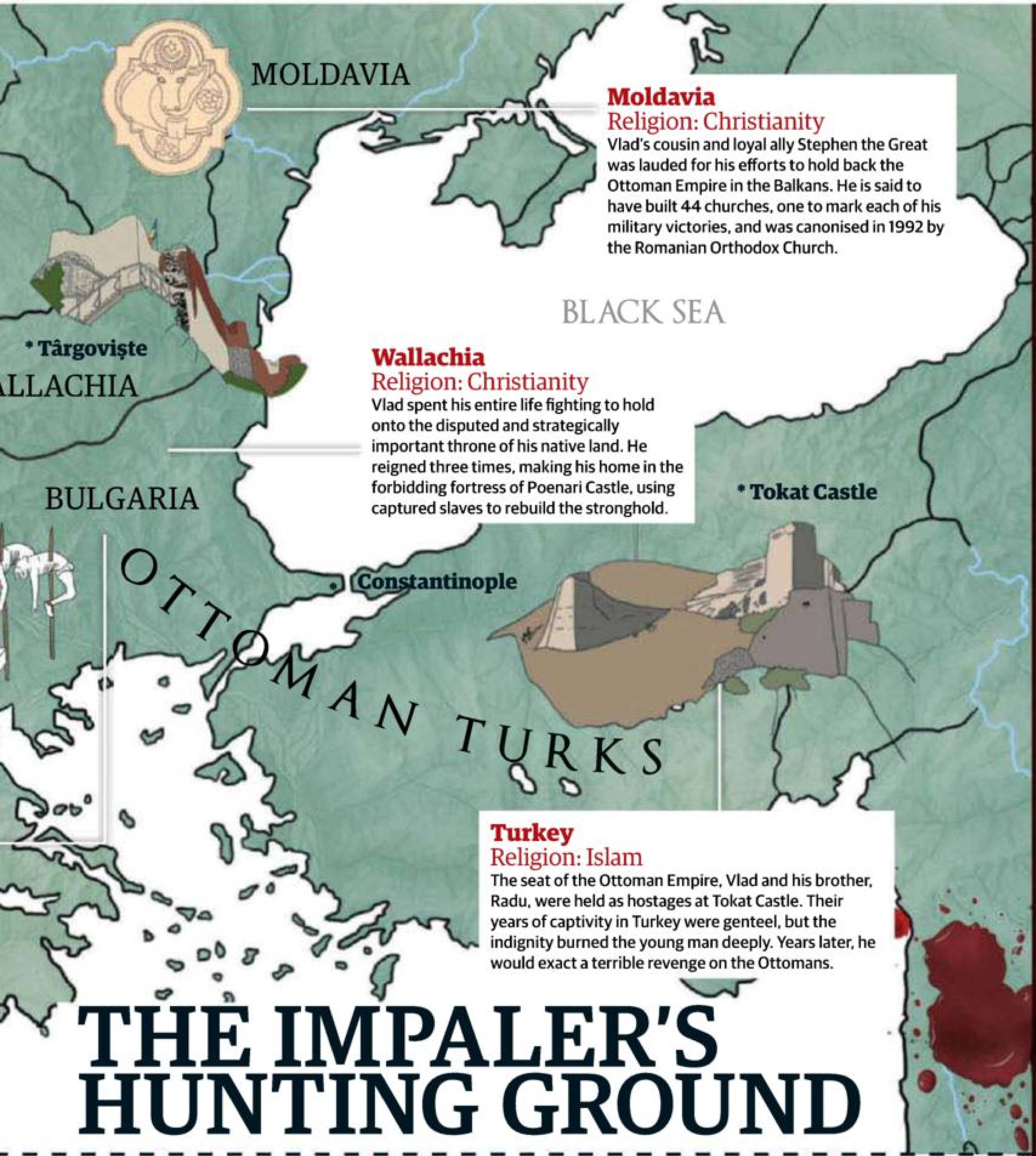
Bulgaria
Religion: Christianity/Islam
The people of Bulgaria still hail Vlad as a hero for his defence of their country. He impaled thousands of occupying Turks and offered Christian Bulgarians safe haven in Wallachia. Others were slaughtered, with forests of impaled victims lining the roads, beheadings on a mass scale and whole settlements razed to the ground.

Vlad the Impaler began his life in the deep winter of 1431. He was born to Vlad II Dracul, the soon-to-be voivode (prince) of Wallachia, but of his mother we know nothing certain. Perhaps she was Princess Cneajna of Moldavia, wife of Vlad II, or maybe she was one of the ruler's many mistresses. Whoever she was, she gave birth to a boy who would become one of the most terrifying rulers known to history.

Vlad was born into a world of conflict and territorial disputes. He was raised to understand the importance of honouring his family name and forever pushing the limits of his lands, whatever the cost, to those who opposed him. As a member of the Order of the Dragon, his father was sworn to defend Christianity from the Ottomans and others who did not share their faith. It was a vow that Vlad himself would also defend as he slashed and burned a bloody swathe through the Balkans.

When Vlad was five years old, his father was crowned voivode of Wallachia. However, he lost the throne six years later and, in his attempts to secure his return to power, tried to keep on the best side of all the important parties. At first things went well, and Vlad and his brother, Radu, were stationed at the Ottoman court to prove the voivode's loyalty

> "He swore bloody vengeance on those who had killed his family, and when the moment came for payback, it would be brutal"



Moldavia
Religion: Christianity
Vlad's cousin and loyal ally Stephen the Great was lauded for his efforts to hold back the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans. He is said to have built 44 churches, one to mark each of his military victories, and was canonised in 1992 by the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Wallachia
Religion: Christianity
Vlad spent his entire life fighting to hold onto the disputed and strategically important throne of his native land. He reigned three times, making his home in the forbidding fortress of Poenari Castle, using captured slaves to rebuild the stronghold.

Turkey
Religion: Islam
The seat of the Ottoman Empire, Vlad and his brother, Radu, were held as hostages at Tokat Castle. Their years of captivity in Turkey were genteel, but the indignity burned the young man deeply. Years later, he would exact a terrible revenge on the Ottomans.

THE IMPALER'S HUNTING GROUND

in exchange for Ottoman support. When the Order of the Dragon demanded that Vlad II Dracul join their crusade against the Turks, however, it seemed that his wily efforts to remain on the good side of everyone had failed.

The brothers became prisoners, but despite being held hostage, their lives were comfortable and privileged. Vlad and Radu were given a fine academic education, as well as training in combat, strategy and military matters. However, the very thought of being held captive left Vlad seething with resentment and that only worsened as he watched his younger brother, Radu, become a favourite of the Ottoman sultan and eventually convert to Islam.

Vlad, on the other hand, never liked to toe the line and was often severely punished for his transgressions. When news reached Vlad that his father and elder brother, Mircea, had been brutally murdered by rebel nobles in 1447, that resentment burst into fury. He swore bloody vengeance on those who had killed his family, and when the moment came for payback, it would be brutal.

Upon his release, Vlad returned to Wallachia as Vlad III and, aged just 17, claimed the throne that his father had lost. He hung onto it for just two months before John Hunyadi - better known as the White Knight of Hungary, and a sworn enemy of Vlad's family - invaded Wallachia. Vlad was forced to flee to Moldavia, seeking protection from his uncle, Prince Bogdan, and his cousin, Stephen - a man who would later become a vital figure in the story of the Impaler.

However, things had taken an unexpected turn in Wallachia, where Hunyadi's preferred candidate for the role of voivode, Vladislav II, had turned out to be rather fond of appeasing the Turks. Hunyadi might not have approved of Vlad, but the two men formed an unlikely alliance, plotting to take back the throne of Wallachia. The decision came not a moment too soon.

In 1453, Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks and suddenly the doors of Europe were wide open for invasion. Now the retaking of Wallachia was more important than ever and, in 1456, as Hunyadi's troops invaded Serbia, Vlad led his men into Wallachia. The two men met very different fates: Hunyadi fell victim to plague and died, while Vlad triumphed and slaughtered Vladislav II. It marked the beginning of six violent years of rule as voivode of Wallachia, and the start of a legacy written in blood.

BLOODY RULERS

Vlad the Impaler isn't alone in ruling with an iron fist - history is full of merciless monarchs and deadly dictators

Gilles de Rais

Born in 1405, Baron de Rais was one of the most prolific child killers in history, revelling in abuse and torture. The number of his victims is unknown but is believed to be more than 100. De Rais was executed in 1440; none of his victims were ever found.

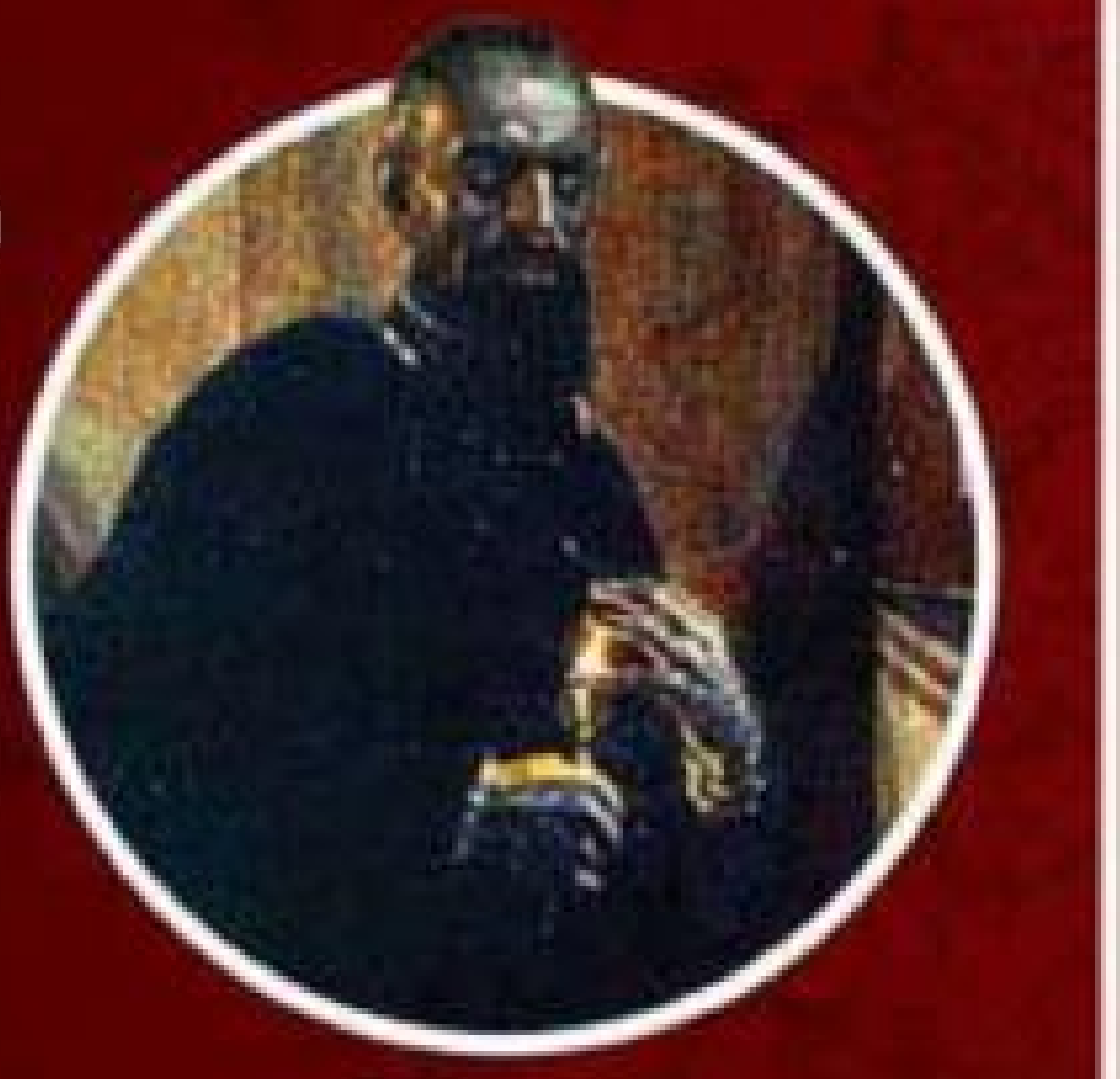
Elizabeth Bathory

Known by some as Countess Dracula, Bathory was alleged to have murdered hundreds of young women at her home in Hungary, but escaped execution. Locked up in a castle room with just small hatches to pass her food, she died in 1614.

Attila the Hun

The Scourge of God, Attila laid waste to dozens of cities. Known for his savagery, he spared no one, and fear of him swept through the continent. Attila died at his own wedding feast, choking to death from either an enormous nosebleed or internal bleeding.

Ivan the Terrible



The 16th-century tsar of Russia found personal delight in sadism, and took pleasure in both inflicting and observing torture. He impaled, boiled, burned, beheaded or hanged hundreds of victims, and these were just a few of his more sinister methods.

Catherine de Medici

The devout Catholic is infamous for orchestrating the St Bartholomew's Day massacre. As Protestant crowds gathered in Paris to witness the marriage of her daughter to Henry of Navarre in 1572, an estimated 3,000 were slaughtered.

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A Balkan warlord with a reputation for violence, Vlad Tepes ruled with an iron fist – and sharp stake

VLAD VERSUS THE TRANSYLVANIAN SAXONS

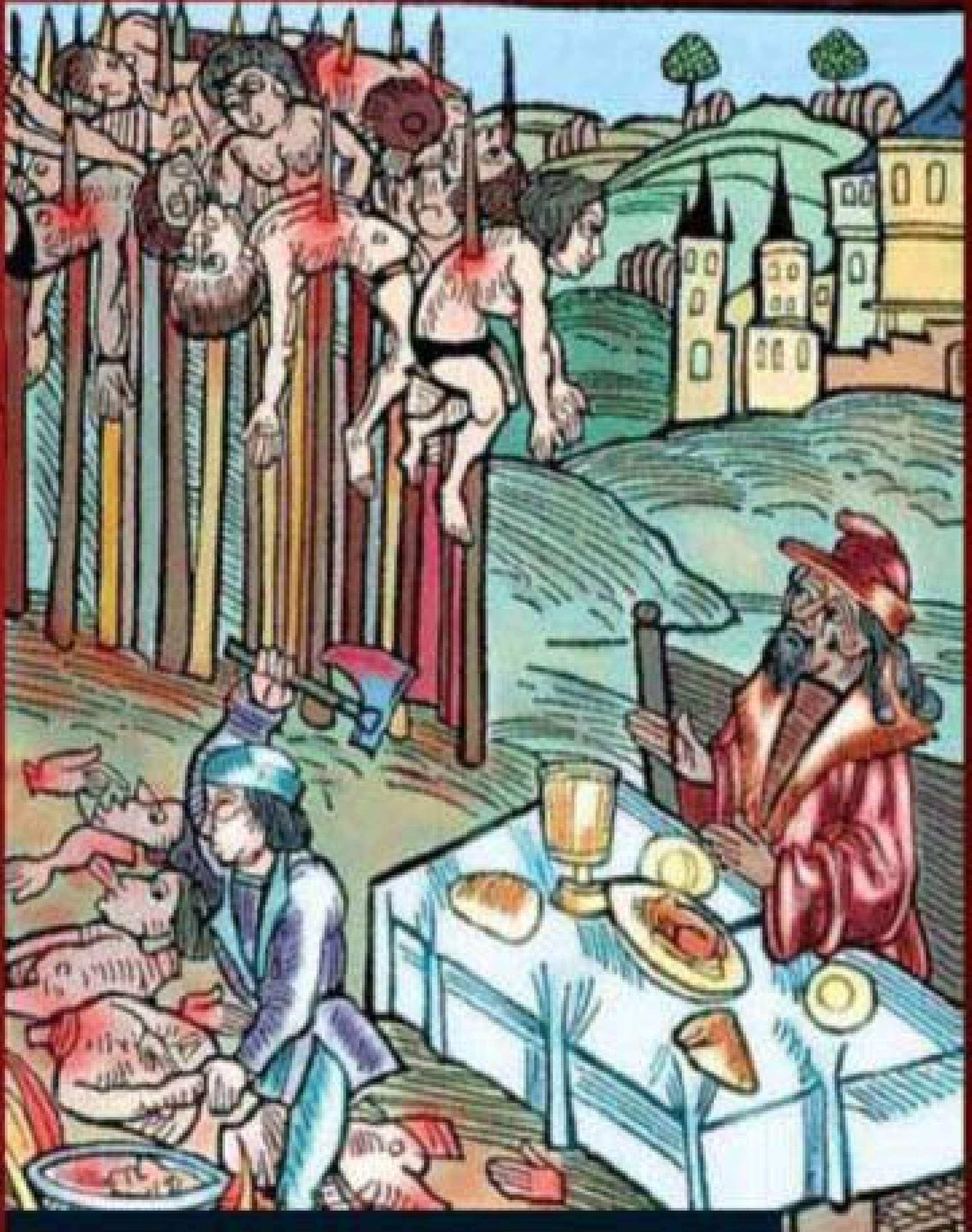
The conflict that gave birth to the dark prince's name

The influential Transylvanian Saxons were long-time critics of Vlad the Impaler; unsurprisingly, he exacted a terrible fate on them as punishment for their opposition. Although the Saxons were a minority in Transylvania, they were extremely powerful, controlling the region's fortified towns and its industry. For centuries they had been afforded special status under the Hungarian crown, but when Vlad came to power, all of that was set to change.

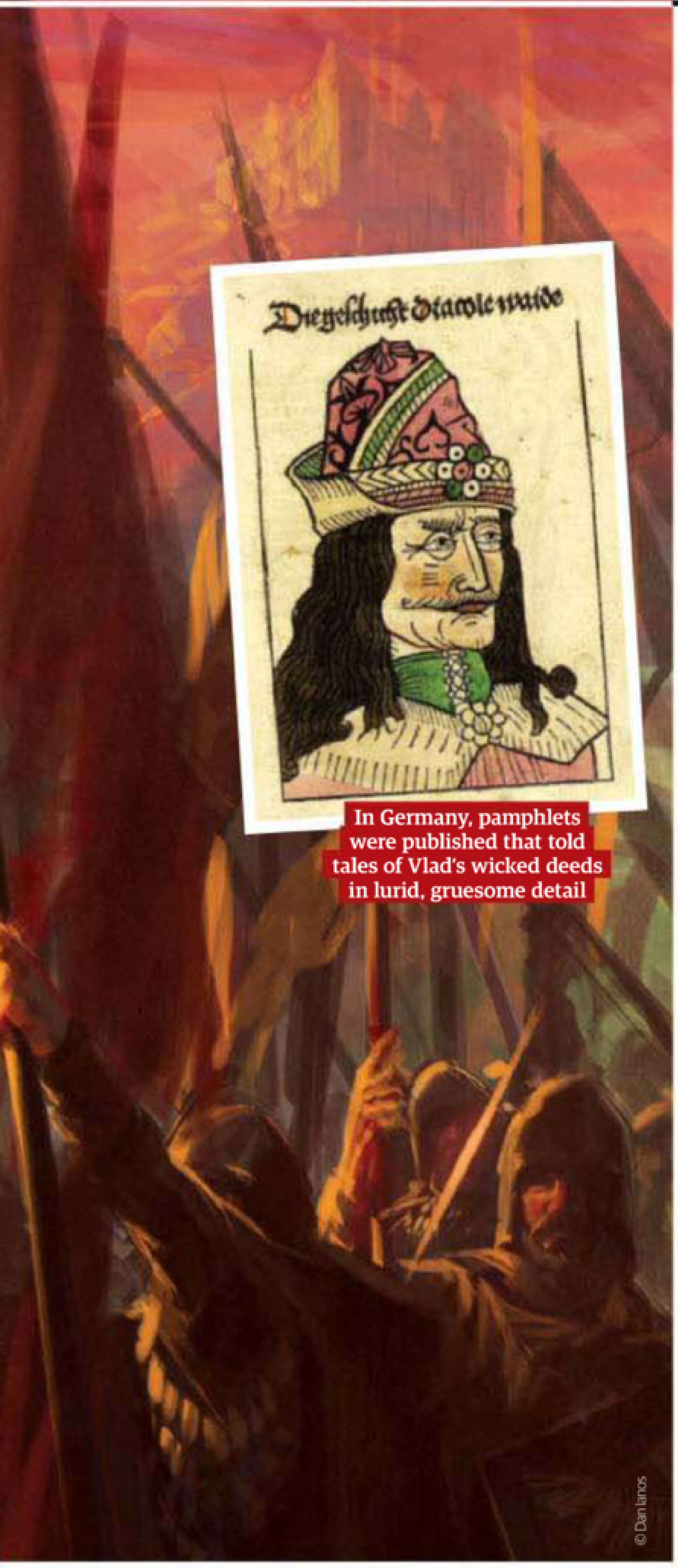
The Transylvanian Saxons disputed Vlad's claim to the throne of neighbouring Wallachia and chose to support his enemy, Dan III of Transylvania. Not only that, but they also enjoyed trade privileges that the Wallachian merchants did not, so when Vlad levied heavy taxes on the Saxons, they refused to pay. This continued until 1459 when Vlad's forces swept into the city of Kronstadt (known today as Braşov) and dragged the merchants up to Mount Tampa.

Here, on the hills overlooking the city, those who had dared defy their ruler met a gruesome fate. A stake was pushed into the anus of each victim, so that their own weight would slowly force them to slide down its length. It was an agonisingly slow death, and the hellish moans of the dying echoed over the city. The pretender Dan III was captured and forced to dig his own grave. Only when the pit was deep enough for a body was he allowed to rest, and then ordered to recite his own eulogy. As the final words left Dan's lips, Vlad beheaded him.

Legend has it that Vlad the Impaler dined royally amid the forest of dying Saxons, enjoying a banquet as the screams of the victims filled the air. German reports of the atrocities claimed that he dipped his bread into the blood of the Transylvanian Saxons. This is one of the first references to link Vlad Tepes with the vampiric legends that later attached themselves to his name.



Vlad the Impaler enjoyed a hearty feast as his victims died a slow, agonising death



In Germany, pamphlets were published that told tales of Vlad's wicked deeds in lurid, gruesome detail

© Dan Ianos

Safely installed on the throne of Wallachia, Vlad immediately began to consolidate his position. He sent thousands of troops to fight on behalf of his cousin, Stephen, and ensure that he was successful in conquering Moldavia. The two cousins now controlled strategically important points in the Balkans, and together would prove an enormous obstacle to the Ottomans. Vlad couldn't help but think back to his youth. No matter how good the education he had enjoyed in captivity, he had still been a hostage, and now the time had come for revenge.

Intelligence reached Vlad that included the names of many Wallachian nobles, or boyars, who had conspired to murder his father and bury his brother, Mircea, alive. Cunning as ever, he invited the men named to attend an Easter feast and bring their families along to enjoy the festivities. When they arrived, the boyars were arrested. The oldest were impaled on the spot; the young and fit, however, were forced into slave labour rebuilding Vlad's castle. Conditions were brutal, and those that survived the gruelling work were slaughtered once the project was completed.

Stories are still told of Vlad's extreme cruelty, particularly towards the women of Wallachia. Those who lost their virginity outside of wedlock were tortured, while children were roasted alive and then fed to their mothers. Dishonest shopkeepers were skewered and one of his enemies was even sawn in half. Some claim that Vlad impaled mice and birds for recreation, but much of this is open to conjecture. Such tales serve both good and bad purposes. On the one hand, they do much to instil fear in the enemy or would-be invader. On the other, they tend to obscure the facts.

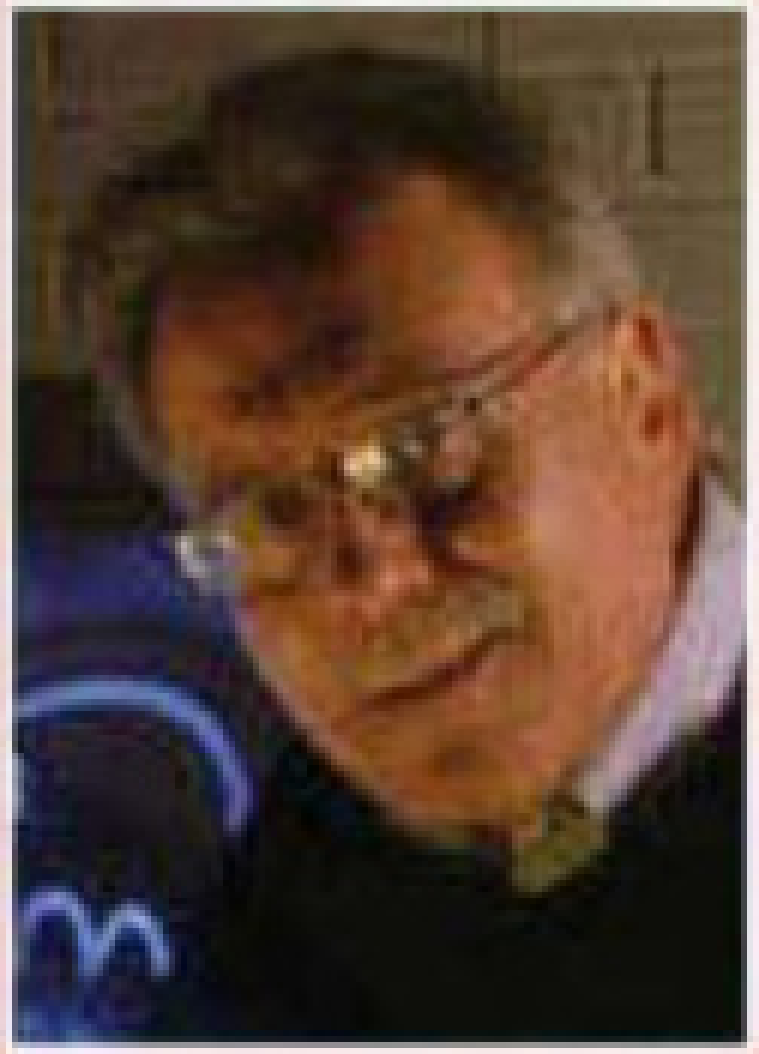
Not all of the stories were rumours, of course. When Sultan Mehmed II claimed Wallachia as part of the Ottoman Empire, Vlad had no intention of acquiescing to him. He did, however, welcome the Turkish envoys to his court, suggesting that he might be open to negotiation. Instead, the envoys were seized and their turbans nailed to their heads, killing them instantly. After all, Vlad pointed out, it was impolite to refuse to raise one's headgear when meeting the prince.

> "Stories are still told of Vlad's extreme cruelty, particularly towards the women of Wallachia. Those who lost their virginity outside of wedlock were tortured"

The sultan was furious and dispatched a trusted envoy, Hamza Bey, to seek an audience with Vlad. Bey's instructions were clear: claim Wallachia for the Ottoman Empire by any means, even if that included killing the intransigent ruler. Vlad was waiting to receive Bey and his men and, as they travelled through rural Wallachia, they were ambushed. The soldiers were impaled on wooden spikes; in deference to his importance, Hamza Bey was impaled on the tallest of them all.

Wherever Vlad the Impaler trod, bloodshed followed by the gallon. His hatred for the Ottoman Turks knew no bounds and it wasn't enough for him to know that his enemies were falling, he wanted to be there to kill them in person. Putting to good use the Turkish he had learned during captivity, Vlad infiltrated Ottoman strongholds across Bulgaria. His forces slaughtered thousands of men, women and children, killing civilians as readily as they did soldiers. The lands echoed with the cries of the wounded and dying, the air became thick with the smoke of burning villages and the people trembled at the advance of the Impaler.

FROM PRINCE OF WALLACHIA TO PRINCE OF DARKNESS



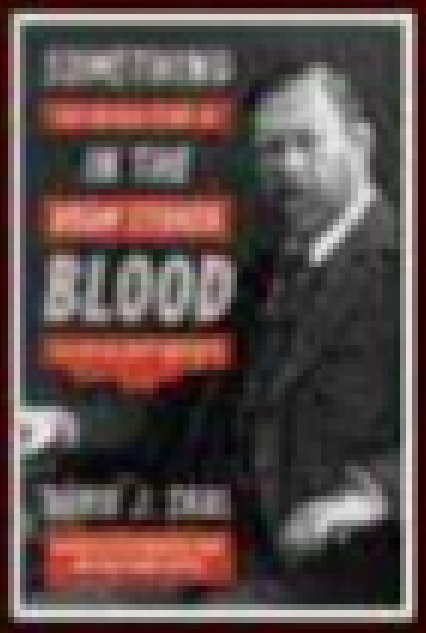
Cultural historian David J Skal looks at the links between Dracula and his historical namesake

Of all the misconceptions about Bram Stoker and Dracula, perhaps the most widespread is the belief that Stoker was inspired to write his classic horror story by the true-life exploits of Vlad Tepes. The sobriquet descended from Vlad's particularly bloodthirsty method of dispatching enemies. But in his own time, Vlad was known and feared as Dracula, meaning son of the devil, or dragon (the words are equivalent in Romanian).

Surely, the business of wooden stakes and impalement had something to do with the famous vampire-removal technique described in Stoker's novel? Actually, it didn't. There is, in fact, zero evidence that Stoker even knew about Vlad's connection to wooden stakes, or had access to any translation of a German account of Vlad dipping bread in the blood of his victims.

Stoker is proven to have actually consulted only one book, found in a library in the seaside resort of Whitby, North Yorkshire, in England, during his 1890 summer vacation. That volume gave him the name Dracula, but included no discussion of blood feasting or impalement, and no description of the atrocious occasion on which 20,000 victims were displayed in a mile-long semicircle outside Dracula's capital city, Târgoviște, as a highly effective warning to oncoming Turkish troops.

Stoker himself actually never even visited Wallachian or Transylvanian regions of Romania – he instead consulted maps and travel guides at home – and did little, if any, additional research into the infamous Impaler. In fact, he already had the story plotted out when his fortuitous discovery of the name Dracula allowed him to give his tale some historical verisimilitude, and a far superior appellation than the over-obvious villain "Count Wampyr" he had originally conceived.



David J Skal's *Something In The Blood: The Untold Story Of Bram Stoker, The Man Who Wrote Dracula* is out 28 October 2016.

5 FRIGHTENING EXECUTION METHODS

Despite his name, Vlad the Impaler subjected his enemies to a variety of cruel and merciless deaths

20,000+ IMPALED

5,000+ BEHEADED

10,000+ BURNED ALIVE

10+ NAILED TURBANS TO THEIR HEADS

1 BOILED ALIVE AND CANNIBALISED

When Turkish envoys failed to remove their turbans in his presence, Vlad had them nailed to their heads

With his empire in the Balkans sinking slowly beneath the blood of Vlad's victims, Sultan Mehmed II struck back. Long since converted to Islam, Radu the Handsome, the brother imprisoned alongside Vlad, joined the 90,000 Ottoman soldiers who crossed the Danube in 1462 and marched on Wallachia. Vlad, however, did not meet his attackers head on, but travelled by night, ambushing groups and picking them off a few thousand at a time, chipping away at men and morale. He knew his territory intimately and exploited this knowledge, catching the invaders in passes and gorges, his deadly strikes coming without warning.

> "Some claim that he died a hero, fighting fiercely alongside his loyal retainers, others say he was murdered by traitorous boyars"

The king of Hungary, Matthius Corvinus, however, did not rally to support Vlad, though he had in the past. The son of Hunyadi still viewed the Impaler with a suspicious eye, and when the seemingly endless Turkish push continued, Vlad turned to Corvinus for help. Instead, Corvinus, nursing ambitions of his own, had Vlad thrown in jail. For four years he languished in captivity, yet the cunning Impaler was not about to be beaten.

Upon his release in 1474, Vlad engaged the assistance of Stephen V Bathory of Transylvania and the two men successfully reclaimed his throne. However, as he embarked on his third reign, the Ottomans were determined to put an end to his rule. The Turks bided their time until Vlad began to think himself safe then, as he travelled through the countryside in the closing days of 1476, they struck.

With forces spent after the recent struggle to reclaim Wallachia, Vlad had little time to regroup and faced the massed Ottoman forces with just a few thousand men. Just as the circumstances of his birth are lost, so do stories disagree on how this warlord perished. Some claim that he died a hero, fighting fiercely alongside his loyal retainers, others say he was murdered by traitorous boyars. Yet another report has Vlad's head severed by the Turks and paraded on a stake. No one knows for sure the location of his final resting place, but it's most likely to be in the Comana Monastery in Giurgiu County, an order that the Impaler founded.

Centuries after his death, those forests of corpses still hold a gruesome fascination, and even today, he enjoys a conflicted reputation. Perhaps our modern perception found its genesis not in Bram Stoker's *Dracula* but in the German writings that related his deeds in blood-soaked detail, slavishly listing every act of cruelty, real or imagined. These illustrated pamphlets sold in their hundreds and were carried throughout Europe, spreading the tale of the merciless voivode. Soon these pamphlets had grown into a whole series and the public lapped them up, horrified and captivated.

It is perhaps unsurprising that, the closer to Vlad's homeland one gets, the more lauded he is. In Romania, he is a hero. Perceived as a god-fearing defender of the people, the Impaler is an important national figure, the man who stood alone between Christianity and the march of the Ottoman forces.

Nearly 600 years after his death, the tale of Vlad III has not faded. Immortalised in film, literature and fairy tales, the shadow of Vlad the Impaler and those who died at his hand continues to loom large.

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Through History

POWER

For centuries, our only sources of power were wind, water and brute force. How did we get from sails and watermills to nuclear reactors and pocket-sized power packs?

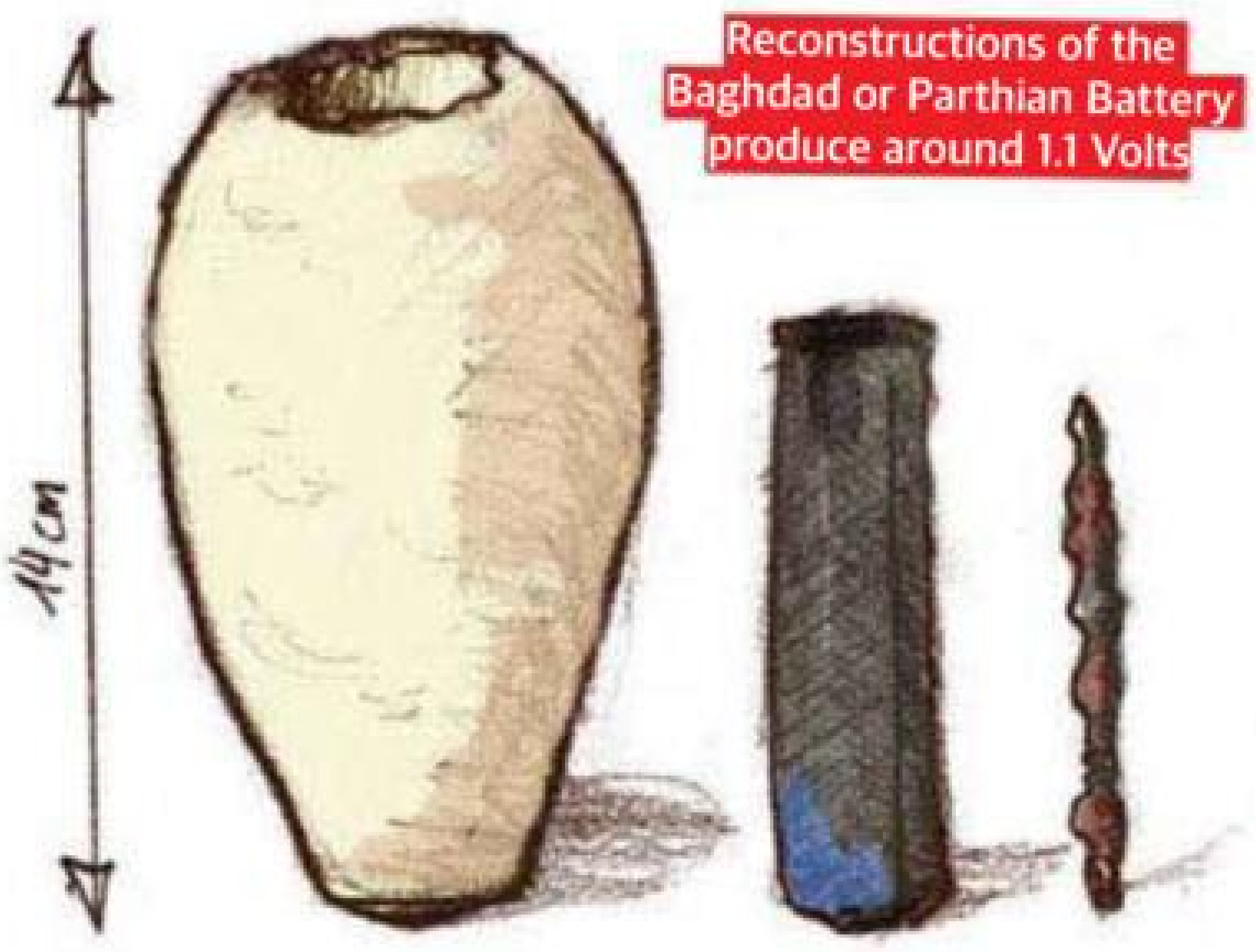
Animals were of the earliest sources of power, and are still used worldwide today

BEASTS OF BURDEN C.6000 BCE

Originally domesticated for their meat and milk, animals like horses and cattle became some of our earliest sources of power. These muscular animals carried the weight of human passengers, shouldered loads we couldn't shift, and were quickly put to work to power primitive machines. Cattle were first used in the Middle East and Asia to plough fields, and animals have since aided in turning mills and tugging boats. Though a mainstay of power for millennia, animals do have their downsides: they can't work all day, they need feeding and watering, and they do make a mess.

FUEL CELLS 250 BCE

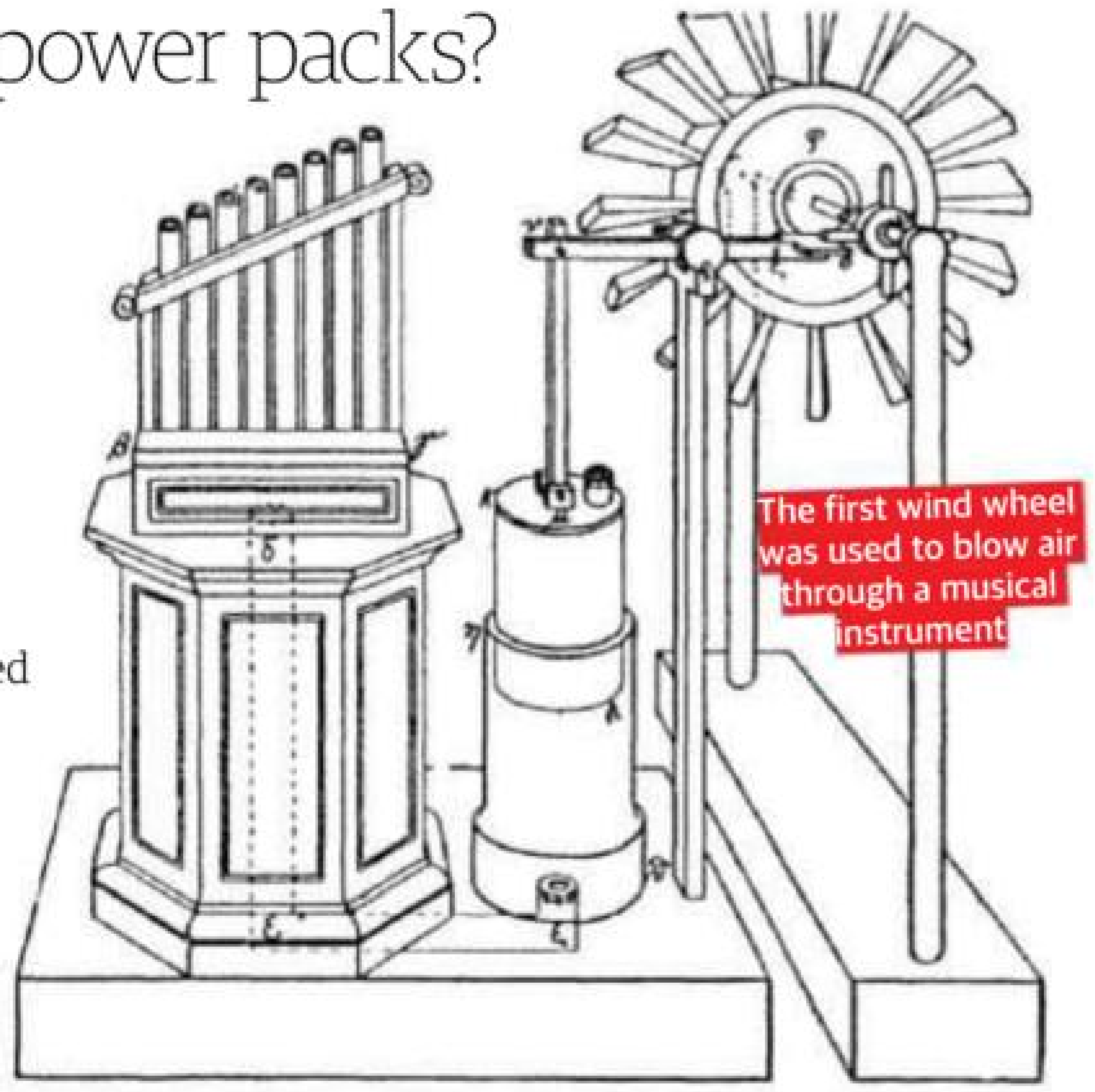
The date of the earliest battery is disputed, and it's possible it could be as far back as 2,000 years ago. A jar discovered in Iran containing a copper cylinder and an iron rod could be one of the first. Known as the Parthian Battery, filling the jar with vinegar produced electricity. However, historians argue over whether it was used as a power source, and suggest electroplating as a more likely function.



Reconstructions of the Baghdad or Parthian Battery produce around 1.1 Volts

WINDMILLS 1ST CENTURY CE

People used sails to catch the wind for thousands of years, but it wasn't until relatively recently that they started to put natural breezes to other uses. The first real example of a windmill was Heron's Windwheel, designed by Greek mathematician Heron of Alexandria. He used wind to push air through organ pipes to make music. A few hundred years later, the technology really took off, and by 500, windmills were being used in Persia for pumping water and milling grain.



The first wind wheel was used to blow air through a musical instrument

Running water has been used to turn grindstones for centuries

ELECTRICITY 1821

Electricity was little more than a curiosity until the 1600s, when scientists started to experiment. It took hundreds of years to harness its power, but Michael Faraday finally cracked the design for the electric motor. Building on the work of other scientists, he realised electrical current should flow around a circuit. His motor was made from a glass jar with a bar magnet at the bottom and a stiff wire inside. The jar was part filled with mercury, and when a battery was connected, the wire would rotate. This simple piece of kit opened the way to the modern world.

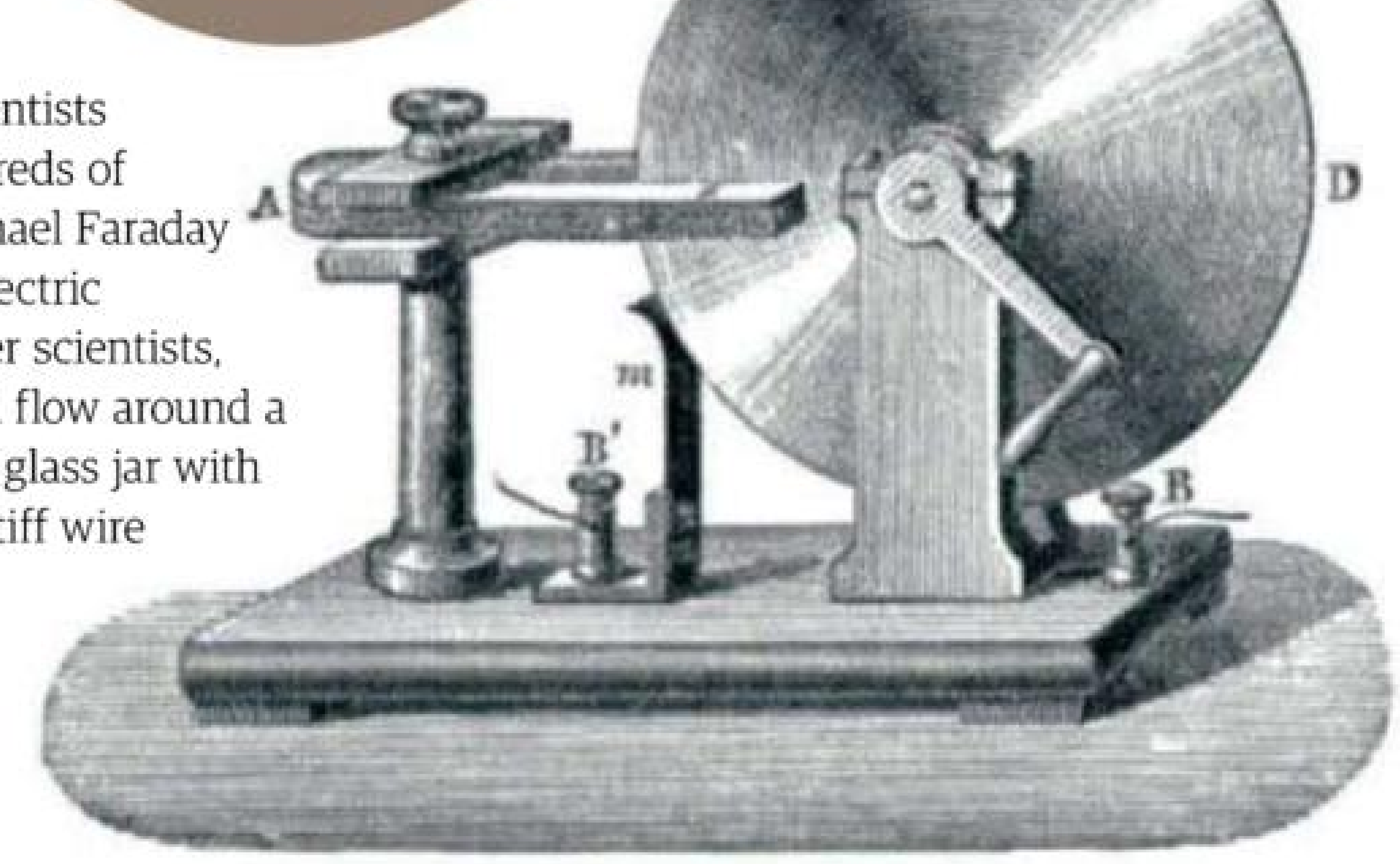
WATER WHEELS 1ST CENTURY BCE

The invention of the water wheel is widely credited to the Ancient Romans, who harnessed the unrelenting power of rivers and streams to perform work. They are well known for their iconic aqueducts, which transported water across the landscape, and Roman engineer Vitruvius was the first to write about using paddled wheels to turn grindstones. One of the most impressive Roman water mills was operated at Barbegal in France in the 4th century. It had a total of 16 wheels, and was used to grind grain to make flour.

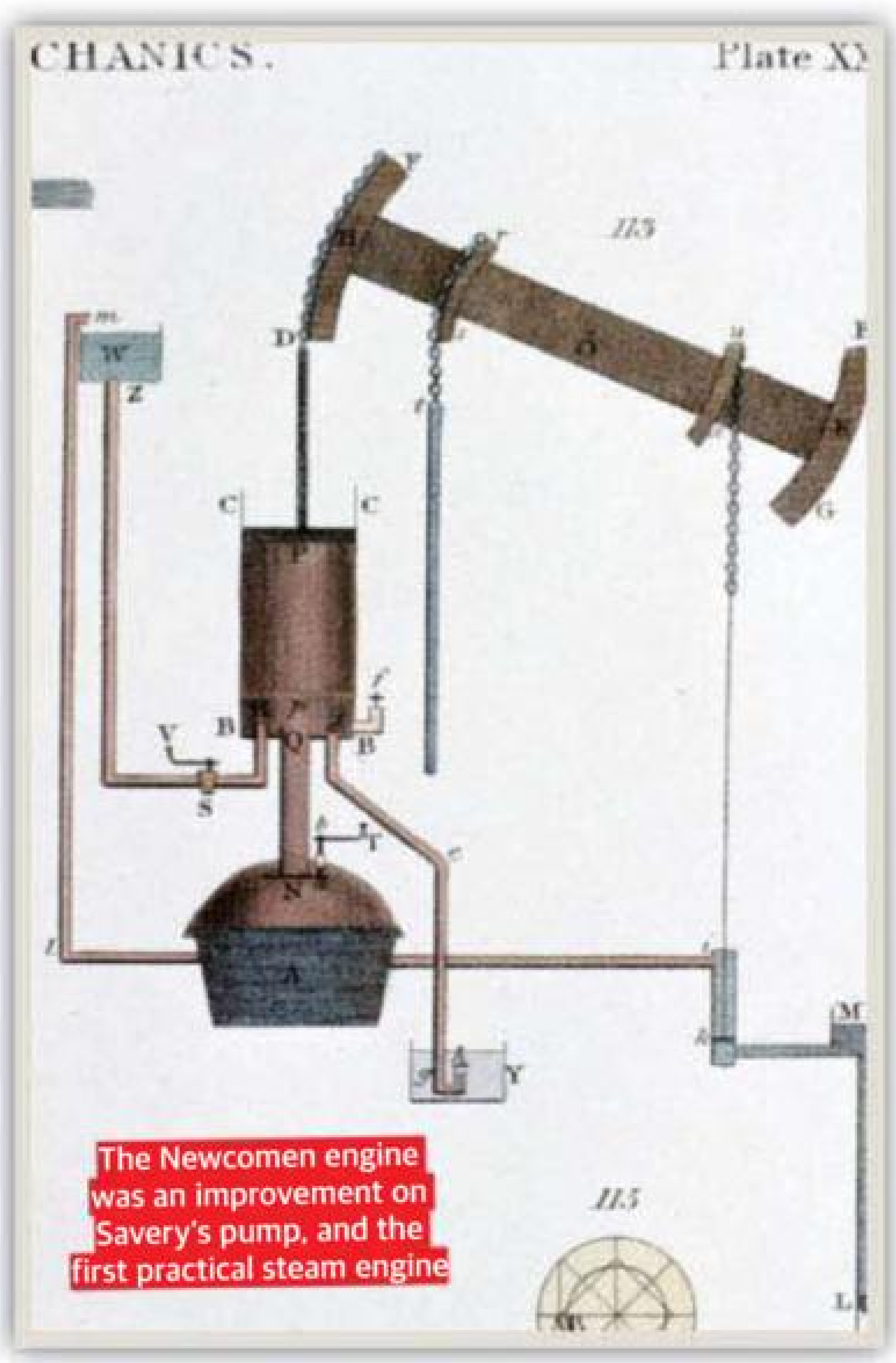
Michael Faraday

ENGLISH 1791-1867

Faraday was the British scientist who invented the electric motor, and discovered the principle of electromagnetic induction - the production of a voltage when a conductor moves inside a magnetic field. This was critical to harnessing the power of electricity.



Michael Faraday invented the first electromagnetic generator, using a spinning copper disk to create electricity



The Newcomen engine was an improvement on Savery's pump, and the first practical steam engine

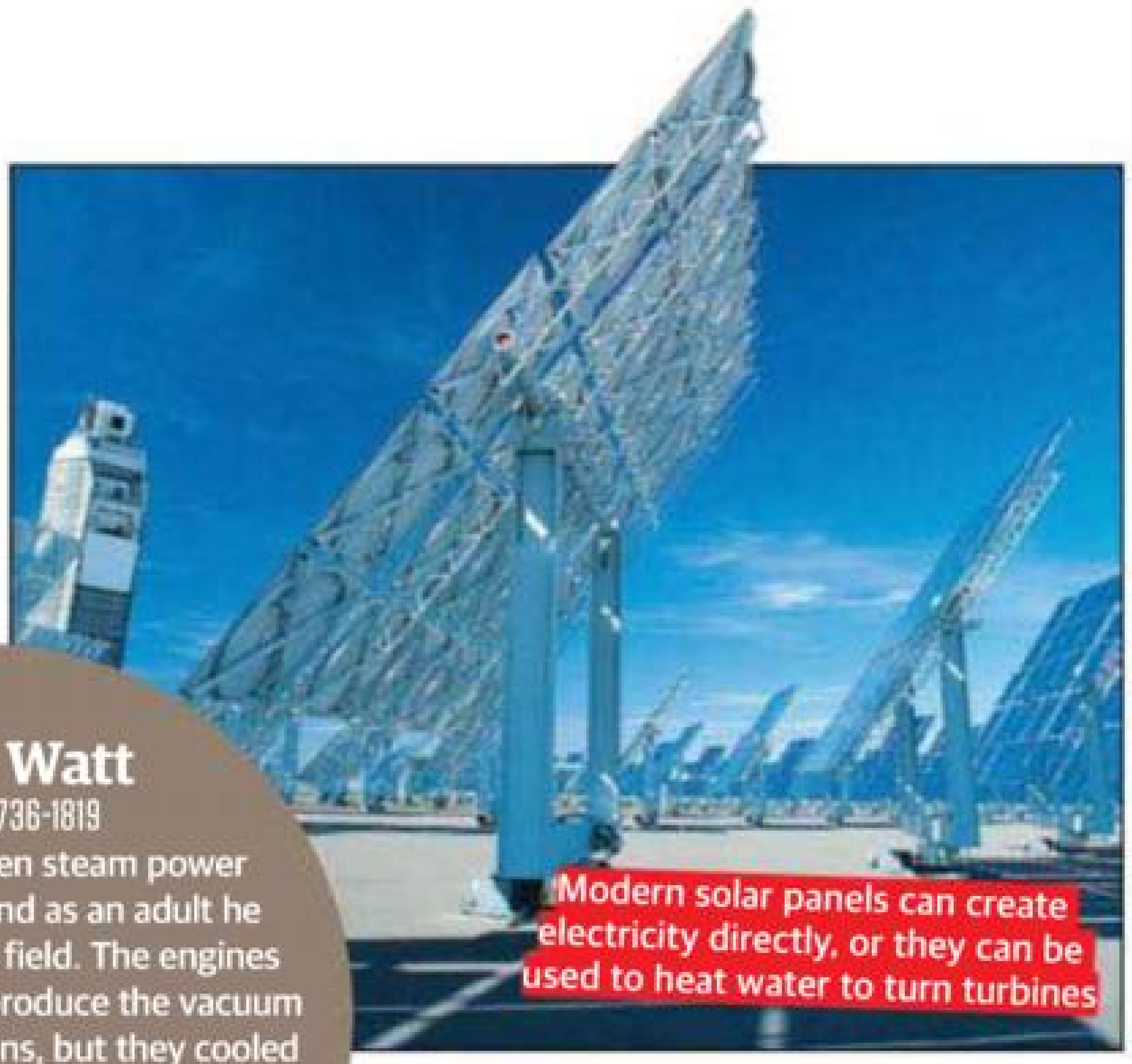
STEAM POWER 1698

Steam power was a real game changer. For centuries, people had been relying on the natural flow of wind and water, but during the 1700s, engineers developed ways to extract more power from the elements. Thomas Savery's pump produced steam, before cooling it to condense the vapour back into water. This process created a vacuum that could be used to pull liquid from waterlogged mines. The technology was vastly improved by the addition of valves, and by the 1800s, steam engines were small enough and efficient enough to be used to power boats and trains.

James Watt

SCOTTISH 1736-1819

Watt was born when steam power was in its infancy, and as an adult he would transform the field. The engines condensed steam to produce the vacuum needed to move pistons, but they cooled down each time, making them horribly inefficient. He invented a valve and chamber system that allowed the steam to be collected without cooling the whole engine.



Modern solar panels can create electricity directly, or they can be used to heat water to turn turbines

SOLAR POWER 700 BCE

Solar power might seem like a modern invention, but one of the earliest uses dates back to 700 BCE, when people used glass to focus the Sun's rays to create fire. Fast forward to the 1700s, and the use of glass to capture sunlight had improved dramatically. Swiss scientist Horace-Bénédict de Saussure built a solar collector from stacked glass boxes that was hot enough to cook food. Solar cells followed in 1883, and by 1954, researchers in the USA had developed the technology enough that it could produce a usable amount of electricity.

> "Electricity was little more than a curiosity until the 1600s"

NUCLEAR POWER 1951

The first demonstration of the power of nuclear fission was the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Technology developed to inflict terrible harm would soon be harnessed to generate power. The first nuclear reactor that generated electricity was the small Experimental Breeder Reactor, built in the USA in 1951, and two years later, President Eisenhower launched the Atoms for Peace programme, aiming to steer research away from war and towards electricity. The first functioning, connected generator was built in Obninsk by the Soviet Union in 1954, and today, nuclear reactors supply 11 per cent of the world's electricity.

Nuclear power plants are fuelled by uranium. Fission reactions heat water to create steam

Marcus Vitruvius Pollio

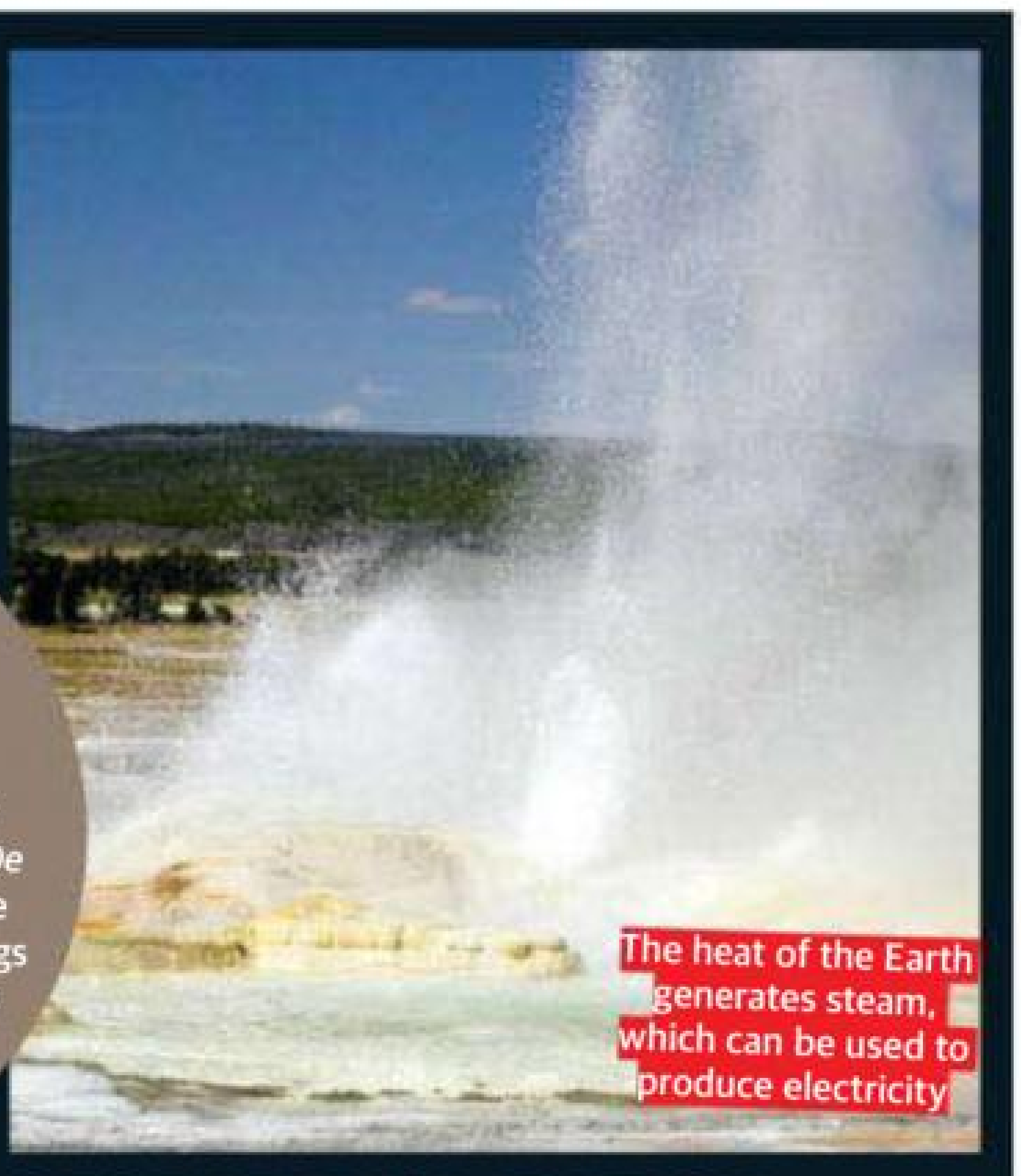
ROMAN C.80-C.15 BCE

Vitruvius was an engineer who served in the Roman military under Julius Caesar. He was the author of *De Architectura*; a text documenting the engineering of his day, and his writings are one of the most valued sources of information about ancient technology.

Expansion of gas inside the cylinders of a combustion engine pushes on the pistons

INTERNAL COMBUSTION 1876

The internal combustion engine provides the power for motor vehicles, and its invention sparked a revolution on the roads. The internal combustion engine was invented by German Nikolaus Otto in 1876, who designed a four-cylinder, petrol-powered engine. The key to its creation was liquid fuel, like petroleum or diesel, which wasn't widely available until the mid-1800s. Within ten years, Karl Benz had started using internal combustion engines in cars, rapidly outpacing the steam and electricity powered vehicles already on the roads. Amazingly, the technology has changed little since the 1890s, and is still the mainstay of motor power to this day.



The heat of the Earth generates steam, which can be used to produce electricity

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY 1904

The heat of the Earth has been used for centuries by people seeking warmth. Hot springs have been used for cooking, and the Romans built great chambers to gather warm water into communal baths, but it wasn't until 1904 that geothermal energy was used to generate electricity. Prince Piero Ginori Conti invented the first power plant at Larderello Dry Steam field in Italy, and within 20 years the technology was being tested in the United States too. Modern geothermal power plants tap into reserves of steam and hot water, using the natural energy to turn turbines.

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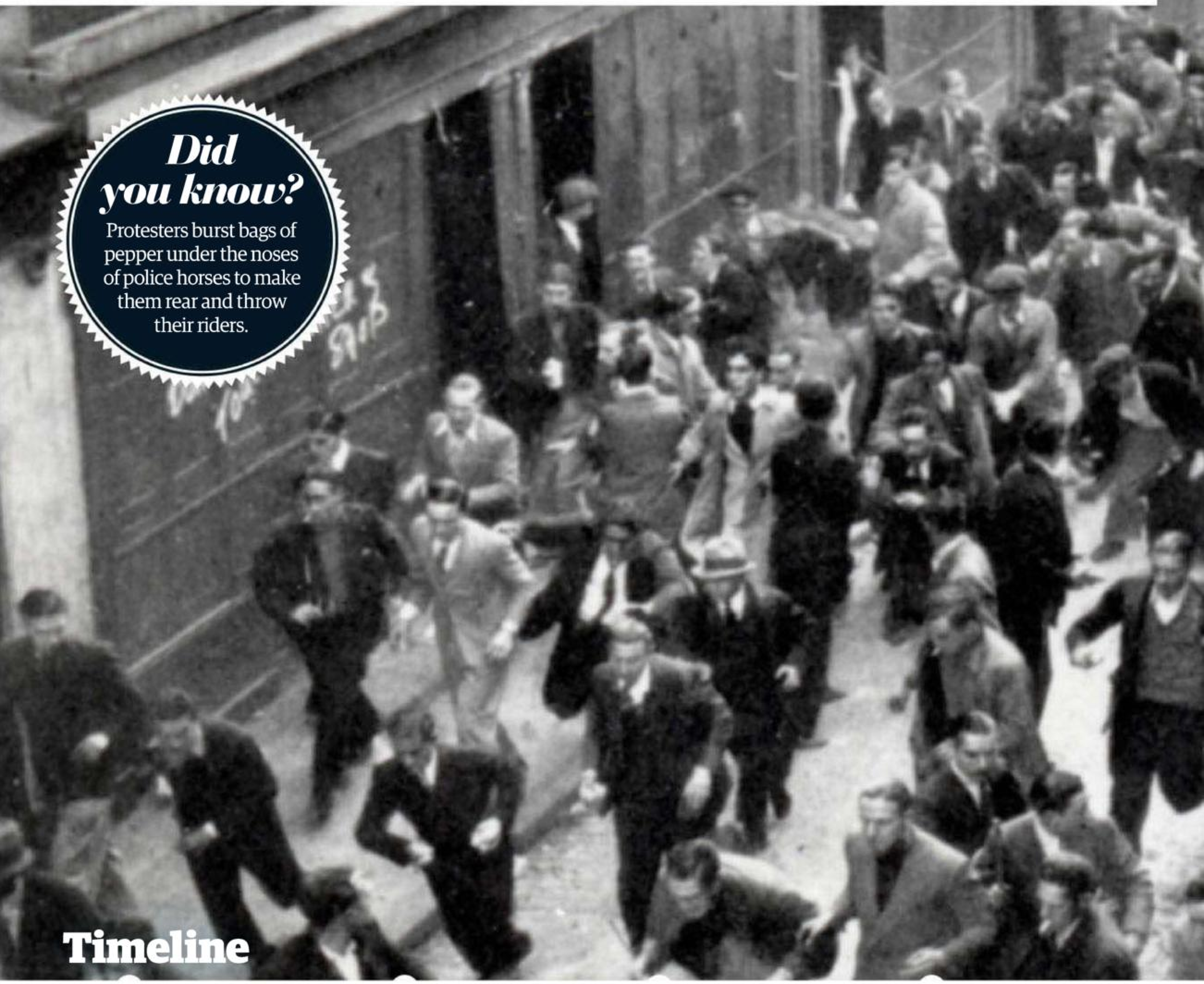
Bluffer's Guide UK, 4 OCTOBER 1936

The Battle of Cable Street



Did you know?

Protesters burst bags of pepper under the noses of police horses to make them rear and throw their riders.

Timeline

OCTOBER 1932

Oswald Mosley disbands his New Party and launches the British Union of Fascists after visiting Benito Mussolini. *The Daily Mail* is a supporter.

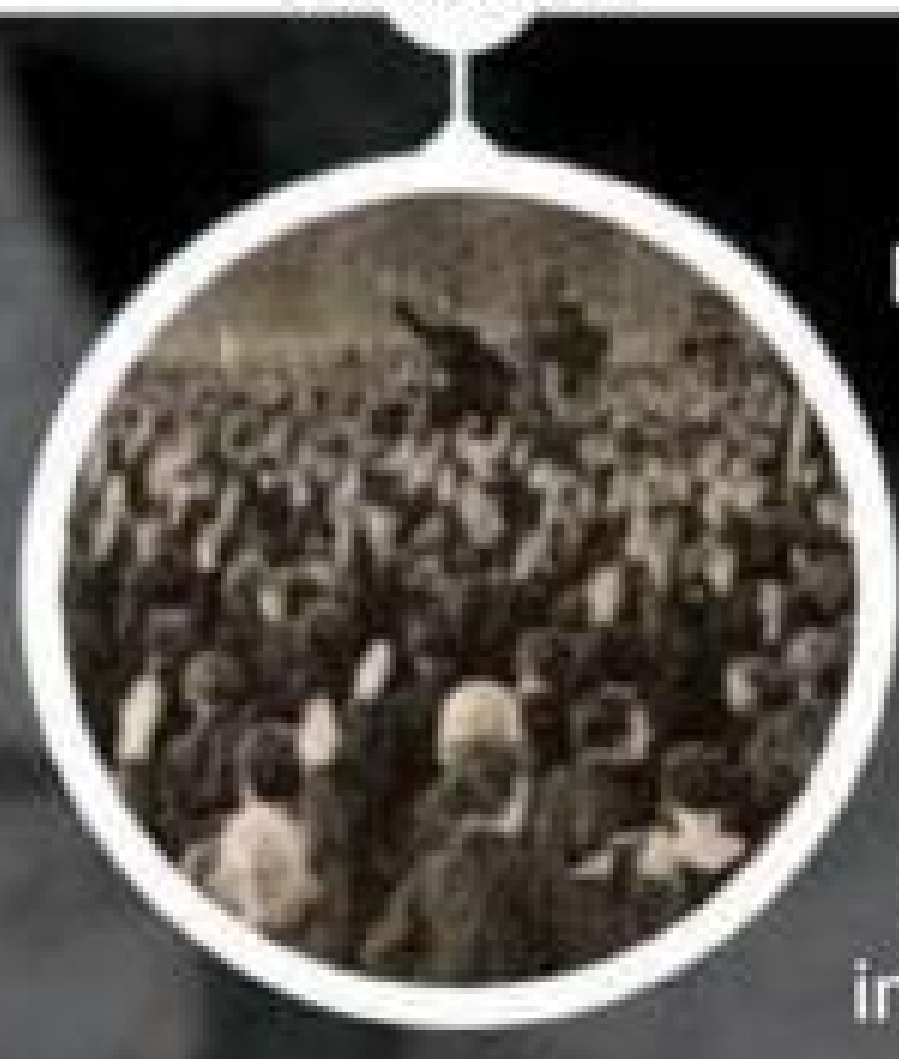
30 JANUARY 1933

Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany as part of a coalition government formed to keep the communists out of power.

7 JUNE 1934

The BUF holds a rally in Olympia, London. 2,000 anti-fascist disrupters attend and fighting breaks out. The violence turns many against the BUF.

SUMMER 1936



Mosley targets the working-class residents of East London. Anti-Semitism, which had until now been a minor part of the BUF ethos, becomes increasingly central.

What was it?

Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists (BUF) had planned a major rally in London's East End. Four columns of Blackshirts would march in military formation to four separate meetings. 10,000 police officers, including the entire regiment of 4,000 mounted police, were deployed to protect them from demonstrators lining the route.

The fascists were due to gather in Royal Mint Street at 2.30pm, but hours before that, as many as 300,000 anti-fascists had rallied in the streets. When the first of the Blackshirts arrived, they were set upon by the crowd and knocked unconscious.

The police made repeated baton charges to drive the crowd back but were repelled with missiles including stones and fireworks. Children threw marbles under the police horses' hooves and women in the flats above pelted police with rubbish and the contents of their chamber pots. By the time Mosley arrived, over an hour late, the riot had been raging for two hours and he was told that the march must be abandoned.

What were the consequences?

In the 1930s, Britain was struggling with economic depression and mass unemployment, and, as in Germany, a political movement was emerging that blamed Jewish people for this. In 1936, there were 350,000 Jewish people in the country - less than one per cent of the total population - but half of them lived in London's East End and 60,000 in Stepney alone. Oswald Mosley was an aristocrat and a politician who had stood as a Conservative, an independent and then a Labour MP, before forming his own party in 1932. His political views were primarily anti-communist but they became increasingly anti-Semitic as time went on. The British Union of Fascists enjoyed early support among the upper class but this faded after violence broke out at a rally in 1934. Mosley began to target his campaigning among the working class slums of London, despite the fact that many of the poorest areas were strongholds of the Communist Party.

Who was involved?

Sir Oswald Mosley

1896-1980

As the leader of the BUF, Mosley organised the October marches and intended to speak at each of the four rallies.

Sir Philip Game

1876-1961

The Metropolitan Police commissioner initially defended the BUF's right to march but later insisted that Mosley cut it short.

Phil Piratin

1907-95

The Communist Party member organised the anti-fascist demonstrators, overseeing the building of barricades in Cable Street.

SEPTEMBER 1936

The BUF plans four marches. Despite a 100,000-signature petition from the Jewish People's Council, the home secretary refuses to stop them.

2 OCTOBER 1936

All out against Fascism

The Communist Party abandons its early stance of non-confrontation and prints thousands of leaflets urging its members to assemble and block the marches.

© Getty Images, Rex Features

THE FIRST LADY OF THE WORLD

Written by Dominic Green

Eleanor Roosevelt entered the White House at a crucial moment and changed American politics forever

Controversial and principled,

No other woman has held the position of first lady of the United States for longer than Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, who served from 1933 to 1945. The wife of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, himself the only president to win four presidential elections, she was first lady for 12 years, one month, one week and one day during a period of unprecedented turmoil, both at home and abroad. No other first lady, before or since, has used her position to pursue policy goals with such ambition and success – or with such controversy.

A first lady lives in a paradoxical position. She enters the USA's most famous house unelected, her title is unofficial and she receives no salary. She does not feature in the Constitution's division of powers between the presidency, the Supreme Court and Congress. Yet as a president's wife, she is in a position of unparalleled status and responsibility. She has the president's ear, and the eyes of the world are upon her.

The essentials of a first lady's work were established in the earliest days of the American republic, when Martha Washington planned and hosted receptions for George. But how to address her among equals, in a society that had dispensed with aristocratic titles? Martha Washington, the first 'first lady', preferred to be called 'Lady Washington'. Some of her successors preferred 'Mrs President'. In the 1840s, President John Tyler's wife Julia called herself 'Mrs Presidentress' when she was in the White House, and 'Mrs ex-President Tyler' after she left it.

The title 'first lady' seems to have appeared in the mid-19th century, but it did not settle on the president's wife until the early-20th century. The timing is significant. In the age of the New Woman and the suffragette, women asserted their right to take part in public life, and to be more than social secretaries to their husbands. Eleanor Roosevelt was a product of that age. Earlier first ladies had wielded influence, but Eleanor was the first to enter the White House as a public figure in her own right.

For more than two decades, since Franklin Delano Roosevelt's entry into politics in 1910 as a senator for New York State, she had studied the workings of government and developed tactics for advancing causes close to her heart. During World War I, when FDR was assistant navy secretary in Woodrow Wilson's administration, Eleanor immersed herself in wartime relief and successfully

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Roosevelt (second left) and 'Hick' (far right) in 1933

Behind closed doors

The enigmatic private life of the first lady, the other man and the other woman

Even before FDR was crippled by polio, Eleanor had refused to sleep with him because of his infidelity. Biographers continue to argue over the nature of two subsequent relationships. The first, with her bodyguard, an ex-circus acrobat named Earl Miller, began in 1928. Friends of the Roosevelts noticed their intimacy. Miller never discussed his years with Eleanor, but he did admit to having dated other women in order to reduce gossip.

It is highly likely Eleanor had an affair with journalist Lorena Hickok. They met when 'Hick' was covering FDR's first election campaign. Soon, they were writing to each other daily. "Oh! I want to put my arms around you. I ache to hold you close," a note from Eleanor read. It seems the feeling was mutual. "Most clearly I remember your eyes, with a kind of teasing smile in them," Hickok wrote, "and the feeling of that soft spot just north-east of the corner of your mouth against my lips."

Roosevelt holds a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1949

> "She broke the mould by holding her first press conference - inviting only female members of the media"

lobbied for the improvement of conditions at Saint Elizabeth's - the military psychiatric hospital in Washington, DC.

After the war, FDR's sickness accelerated Eleanor's growth as a public figure. When the Democrats lost the 1920 election, FDR, the Democratic nominee for vice-president, returned to private practice as a lawyer. The following year, he contracted polio. Eleanor believed that FDR's happiness depended on returning to politics. While he convalesced, she supervised his care, and managed the upbringing of their five children. But his absence from the public stage allowed her to forge her own role.

Protocol had prevented Eleanor from speaking when she joined FDR on the 1920 campaign trail. But now, she could speak publicly on causes such as race and gender equality in the workplace, and the plight of the poor and unemployed. Through the Depression years, Eleanor accumulated experience and prestige on the boards of the Women's City Club of New York, the League of Women Voters, the World Peace Movement and the Women's Trade Union League. She set up a furniture factory in upstate New York to create local jobs, and took over and taught in a school in New York City. She also began a lifelong career as a pundit on the radio and in print.

When FDR returned to politics as governor of New York State in 1928, Eleanor suspended her political affiliations, but not her political activity. Sometimes, as in her support for striking garment workers, she was ahead of her husband; at other times, especially when he was ill, she described herself as his "eyes, ears, and legs" at meetings and visits across the USA.

FDR's rise to the presidency in March 1933 forced a further curtailment of Eleanor's freelance activities, but it permitted an often-controversial expansion of her semi-official work for her husband. Previous first ladies had come to the White House intending to publicise apolitical issues. Grace Coolidge worked

THE FIRST LADIES BEFORE THE FIRST LADY

ABIGAIL ADAMS

1744-1818

The wife of the first president to live in the White House, Abigail Adams advised her husband on policy and corresponded with him as he negotiated the shape of the American government at the Continental Congresses in Philadelphia.

SARAH POLK

1803-91

Sarah Childress Polk was her husband's trusted adviser during his political career, editing his speeches and advising him on policy. Concerned for his health while he was president, she reduced the scale of White House entertainments, which earned her the nickname "Sahara Sarah".

HELEN 'NERVOUS NELLIE' TAFT

1861-1943

Known as 'Nervous Nellie' because of her perfectionism, Taft attended her husband's cabinet meetings, and sat in the front row at his rival's nomination in case he insulted her husband.

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for the deaf, and Lou Hoover for the Girl Scouts; Michelle Obama's advocacy for healthy eating and exercise fits this pattern of using the position for non-partisan improvements to American life.

Eleanor came to the White House as an active campaigner on partisan issues, and at a time when the Great Depression was bringing misery to millions. Two days into FDR's presidency, she broke the mould by holding her first press conference - inviting only female members of the media. White House press conferences had traditionally been a male preserve, but all-female ones became a regular feature of Eleanor's tenure. They allowed her to advertise the competence of women in an almost entirely male-dominated profession - and by extension suggest that women could succeed in many other previously closed vocations.

Similar symbolic acts told Americans where the first lady stood on racial discrimination. At a time when many whites were candidly racist, Eleanor was the first white resident of Washington, DC to join the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). While attending a conference in Alabama in 1938, where the seating was divided into separate areas for whites and blacks, she moved her chair into the aisle.

In Congress, Eleanor's critics did not see a balancing act in her advocacy, so much as blatant partisanship, and the politicising of a privileged position. She, however, believed that if she was acting in the national interest, there could be no conflict of interest. The late 1930s offered a unique opportunity for an activist first lady. To dig the American economy out of the Great Depression, FDR had committed to the New Deal, a collection of massive government programmes to create jobs.

Eleanor used her connections and prestige to prioritise key issues in New Deal programmes. She held conferences at the White House to examine the needs of unemployed women, on the 'Participation of Negro Women and Children in Federal Welfare Programs', and, in 1944, on the role of women in post-war policy making. She ensured that key New Deal organisations, such as the Civil Works Administration as well as the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, contained divisions devoted to alleviating female unemployment, and picked the heads of their offices.

Eleanor's serious manner in early life earned her the nickname of 'Granny'

Working with NAACP president Walter White, she harnessed the New Deal to her long-standing campaign for the equal rights of African Americans. She addressed NAACP conferences, successfully lobbied for increased federal funding for African-American institutions, and ensured that key acts of legislation acknowledged racial inequities. Most dramatically, in 1939, she resigned from the Daughters of the American Revolution, a group whose members claim descent from the generation of 1776, when the Daughters refused to rent their auditorium for a concert by the African-American opera singer Marian Anderson.

FDR's presidency oversaw the Depression, the New Deal and World War II - experiences that reshaped American society. Eleanor's activism for the rights of women and African Americans was vital in creating two long-term alliances from which the Democratic Party continues to benefit. Through her radio and newspaper work, she was vital in securing a majority of female voters for the Democratic Party. In 'If You Ask Me', her monthly column in *Ladies' Home Journal*, she became the USA's most

Fundraising for a Red Cross War Relief drive, 1940

Roosevelt at a United Nations conference, Lake Success, New York

The third President Roosevelt?

Eleanor was the niece of one president, Theodore Roosevelt, and the wife of another, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. After his death in 1945, she was rumoured to be planning a run for office. In July 1946, however, she published a disclaimer in *Look* magazine listing several reasons for not running. She hoped that her work at the new United Nations might prevent future wars. She was elderly, and felt that young people deserved an opportunity. She enjoyed her newly recovered privacy, and "the freedom in being responsible only to yourself." As an "onlooker" and a "help" in FDR's career, she had seen "the worst and best of politics and statesmanship," and had "absolutely no desire" to participate further. But "the plain truth," she admitted, was simpler.

"I am influenced by the thought that no woman, has, as yet, been able to build up and hold sufficient backing to carry through a program," she said. "Men and women both are not yet accustomed to following a woman and looking to her for leadership. If I were young enough, it might be an interesting challenge." Hillary Clinton, the woman who, at the time of writing, has come closest to winning a presidential election, was born just over a year after Roosevelt wrote this letter.

★★

EDITH WILSON

1872-1961

When Woodrow Wilson suffered a stroke in October 1919, his second wife Edith Galt Wilson - who had married the president while he was in office in 1915 - effectively ran the executive branch of the government for the last two years of his second term.

FLORENCE HARDING

1860-1924

Known as 'The Duchess', Edith Wilson's successor was five years older than President Warren Harding and, observers noted, much more intelligent. Among other accolades, Harding was the first first lady to vote and the first first lady to invite movie stars to the White House.

WIT AND WISDOM FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

Eleanor Roosevelt's philosophies for life

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent”

◆

“GREAT MINDS DISCUSS IDEAS; AVERAGE MINDS DISCUSS EVENTS; SMALL MINDS DISCUSS PEOPLE”

◆

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams”

◆

“A WOMAN IS LIKE A TEA BAG – YOU CAN'T TELL HOW STRONG SHE IS UNTIL YOU PUT HER IN HOT WATER”

◆

“Do one thing every day that scares you”

◆

“IN THE LONG RUN, WE SHAPE OUR LIVES, AND WE SHAPE OURSELVES. THE PROCESS NEVER ENDS UNTIL WE DIE. AND THE CHOICES WE MAKE ARE ULTIMATELY OUR OWN RESPONSIBILITY”

◆

Keeping up appearances with FDR in the 1930s

elevated agony aunt. Her daily column, 'My Day', was a very human running commentary, mixing politics with her daily experience as the president's emissary to the people. Also, Eleanor's highly visible campaigning for the rights of African Americans was vital in drawing African-American voters away from a historic alliance with the Republicans, the party of Lincoln, and towards the Democrats.

World War II brought the economy back to health, and women and African Americans into the workplace. The first lady spoke to the nation on the night of the attack on Pearl Harbor; FDR did not address the public until the next day. She devoted herself to the war effort, speaking bluntly against the Axis in her broadcasts and digging up the White House lawn to plant a Victory Garden.

When FDR died in April 1945, the first lady announced her retirement from public life. But by the end of the year, she was the only woman among President Truman's five-person delegation to the newly created United Nations. She rose to the chair of the Human Rights' Commission, and in December 1948, presented the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for the UN member states' approval. She died in 1962, having campaigned to the end on labour rights and racial equality.

Interpreters of the American Constitution include 'originalists', who try to establish the founders' original intentions, and 'activists', who see the Constitution as a document whose meaning changes with time. Eleanor was an activist, responding to the shifting meaning of relations between men and women, blacks and whites, in an era of dramatic change. There is no doubt she used her position for partisan ends. During the FDR presidency, she insisted that her broadcasts and journalism were separate from her husband's policies. Later, she admitted that FDR's office had used her to break difficult news or advocate for unpopular policies.

In retrospect, many of those policies were right. Today, Eleanor pressuring her husband to pass a law against lynching looks less dubious than his decision to overrule her because he did not want to alienate white voters in the south. Eleanor's blunt statements were vital assets in FDR's careful campaign to convince the Isolationist majorities in Congress and the American public of the danger represented by German and Japanese territorial ambitions.

At a time of national crisis, desperate need and on-going discrimination, Eleanor Roosevelt used her privileged position to alleviate poverty and racism, and pull together the American nation in a global war for freedom. She had become the 'First Lady of the World'.

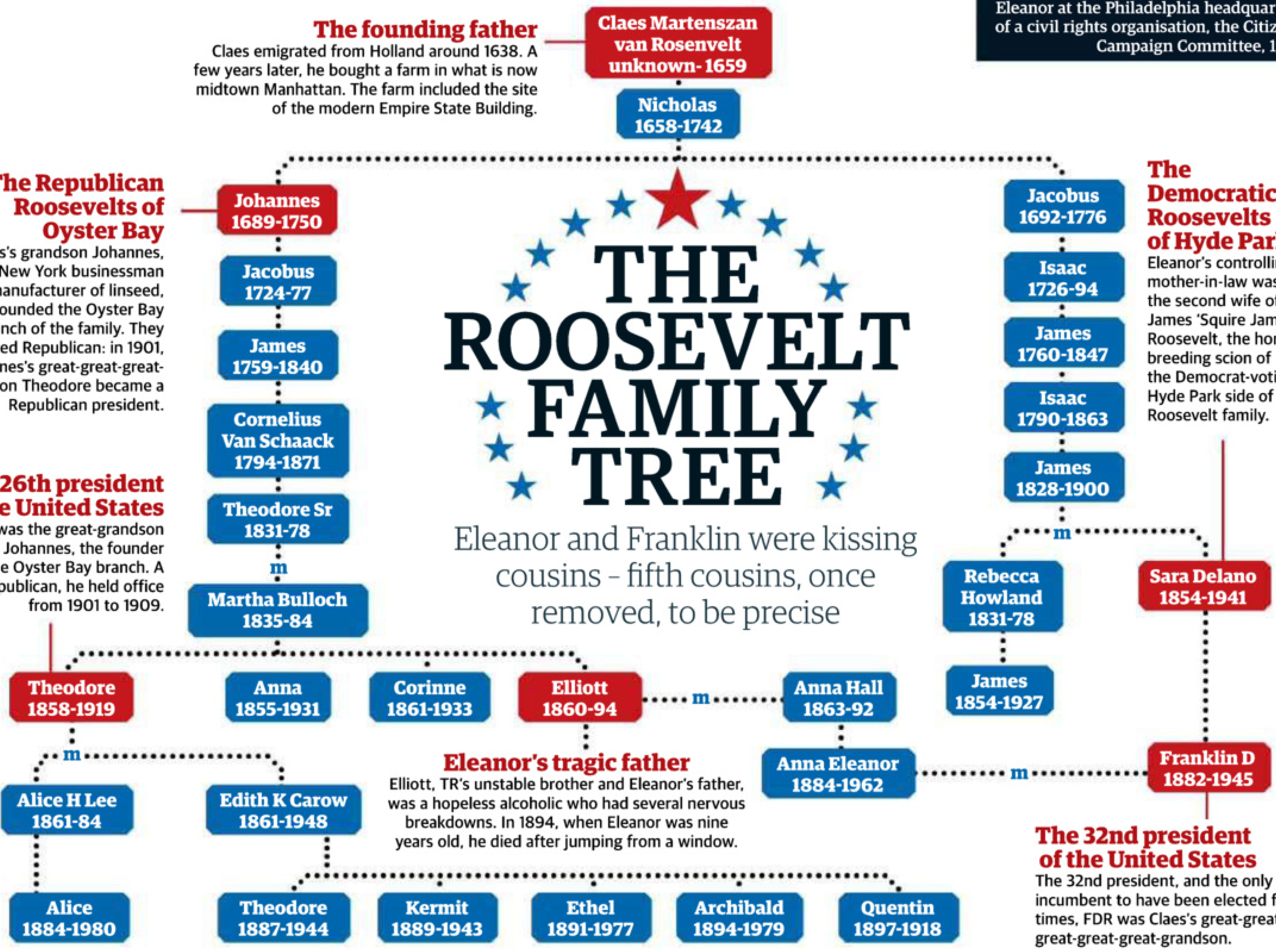
Her legacy, however, was another paradox. She had expanded the possibilities of being a first lady, but also demonstrated its limits. Today, the first lady is under greater scrutiny – as is that potential first gentleman, Bill Clinton. But the candidacy of Hillary Clinton itself is part of Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy too.

“Roosevelt used her privileged position to alleviate poverty and racism”

Eleanor at the Philadelphia headquarters of a civil rights organisation, the Citizens Campaign Committee, 1956

THE ROOSEVELT FAMILY TREE

Eleanor and Franklin were kissing cousins – fifth cousins, once removed, to be precise



The founding father

Claes emigrated from Holland around 1638. A few years later, he bought a farm in what is now midtown Manhattan. The farm included the site of the modern Empire State Building.

The Republican Roosevelts of Oyster Bay

Claes's grandson Johannes, a New York businessman and manufacturer of linseed, founded the Oyster Bay branch of the family. They voted Republican: in 1901, Johannes's great-great-great-grandson Theodore became a Republican president.

The 26th president of the United States

'TR' was the great-grandson of Johannes, the founder of the Oyster Bay branch. A Republican, he held office from 1901 to 1909.

The Democratic Roosevelts of Hyde Park

Eleanor's controlling mother-in-law was the second wife of James 'Squire James' Roosevelt, the horse-breeding scion of the Democrat-voting Hyde Park side of the Roosevelt family.

Eleanor's tragic father

Elliott, TR's unstable brother and Eleanor's father, was a hopeless alcoholic who had several nervous breakdowns. In 1894, when Eleanor was nine years old, he died after jumping from a window.

The 32nd president of the United States

The 32nd president, and the only incumbent to have been elected four times, FDR was Claes's great-great-great-great-great-grandson.

© Getty

The windmill
The French forces were lined up across a ridge, near to the town of Valmy. A windmill atop the ridge served as the French officers' HQ. Today a reconstruction of this windmill serves as a memorial to the battle.

Reinforcements
Spotting Prussian troops assaulting Kellermann's line, General Dumouriez sent his own reserve infantry to support the flanks. Dumouriez's army was positioned parallel to his comrade's and to his rear, further away from the enemy's advance.

GREATEST BATTLES

BATTLE OF VALMY

NORTH-EAST FRANCE 20 SEPTEMBER 1792

Written by Tim Williamson

Cannon duel
The fighting at Valmy was primarily a fierce exchange of cannon fire, with either side attempting to smash the other into submission, or else cause catastrophic injuries to weaken the enemy ranks before an infantry assault.

General Kellermann falls
During a critical moment in the fighting, General Kellermann's horse was shot from beneath him, sending him crashing into the muddy turf. This instantly halted an infantry attack he had been leading, but his men managed to drag him back from the front line to safety.

In 1792, the flames of the French Revolution had been burning through the nation for three years, and threatened to engulf the entire continent. This sent the great powers of Europe - Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, Austria, and others - into a panic, fearing that the established order would be turned upside down. In Paris, Louis XVI was barely clinging to his throne, his powers entirely stripped after his failed escape from the country in 1791. However, soon Europe's princes rallied to the aid of the Bourbon monarch, and in August 1792, the kingdom of Prussia and the Austrian Empire pledged an army to restore him to the throne.

By mid-August, Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand, duke of Brunswick, led this invasion army of more than 100,000 Prussians, Austrians, Hessians and royalist Frenchmen into France and towards its capital. First, the allied army took two strong fortresses guarding the border, Longwy and Verdun, before moving towards Sedan. Weakened and undermanned as a result of the Revolution's turmoil, these first two defensive strongholds gave up without much resistance to the invaders, however, just in time, two French armies intercepted the invaders.

France's last defence arrived in the form of generals Francois Kellermann and Charles Dumouriez. However, like the border fortresses, the rank and file of their armies had been equally weakened by the chaos of revolution, hastily formed from local militias, former members of the royal army and citizen volunteers. In all, the ill-disciplined, poorly equipped French were no match for the superior Austrian-Prussian troops. This was proven true as Dumouriez intercepted Brunswick near Sedan, in a region called the Argonne. Though Dumouriez slowed the invaders' progress, his forces were utterly beaten, with many turning to flee before the advancing Prussian columns. He retreated south, where he hoped to meet up with Kellermann.

The Duke of Brunswick now had a clear path to Paris, where he could conceivably have taken the capital without much struggle. However, with the two French armies now united to the east behind him, his supply and communication lines would be cut off, rendering his army helpless. Instead of marching west to seize the capital, he therefore turned east to smash the French armies in the field.

Among the Austrian-Prussian forces was the king of Prussia himself, Wilhelm II, as well as the renowned German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who was travelling with the army as a curious observer. Both would later vividly recall the foggy morning of 20 September, as the two forces finally lined up opposite one another for battle, with the French deployed on a little ridge near the town of Valmy. On this same day, politicians in Paris were debating the official formation of the French Republic, a new era for the nation. However, if Brunswick's army could strike a defeat on Kellermann and Dumouriez's lines, this republic would be destroyed as soon as it was founded.

The fate of the nation was at stake, and as the fog dissipated, the two sides faced one another across the field, before opening fire. Foreseeing the significance of the battle, Goethe would afterwards remark: "From this place, and from this day forth, commences a new era in the world's history, and you can all say that you were present at its birth."

French army

TROOPS C.54,000
CANNON 36

FRANCOIS KELLERMANN

LEADER

A seasoned soldier, and a fervent supporter of France's revolution, he would go on to become a well-respected commander.

Strengths Experience serving in the ranks as well as an officer.

Weakness Daring decisions bordering on recklessness.

VOLUNTEER SOLDIER

KEY UNIT

The ranks of France's armies had been transformed by the revolution, but not entirely for the better.

Strengths An enthusiasm and dedication to defend the new French Republic.

Weakness Often poorly equipped and ill-disciplined.

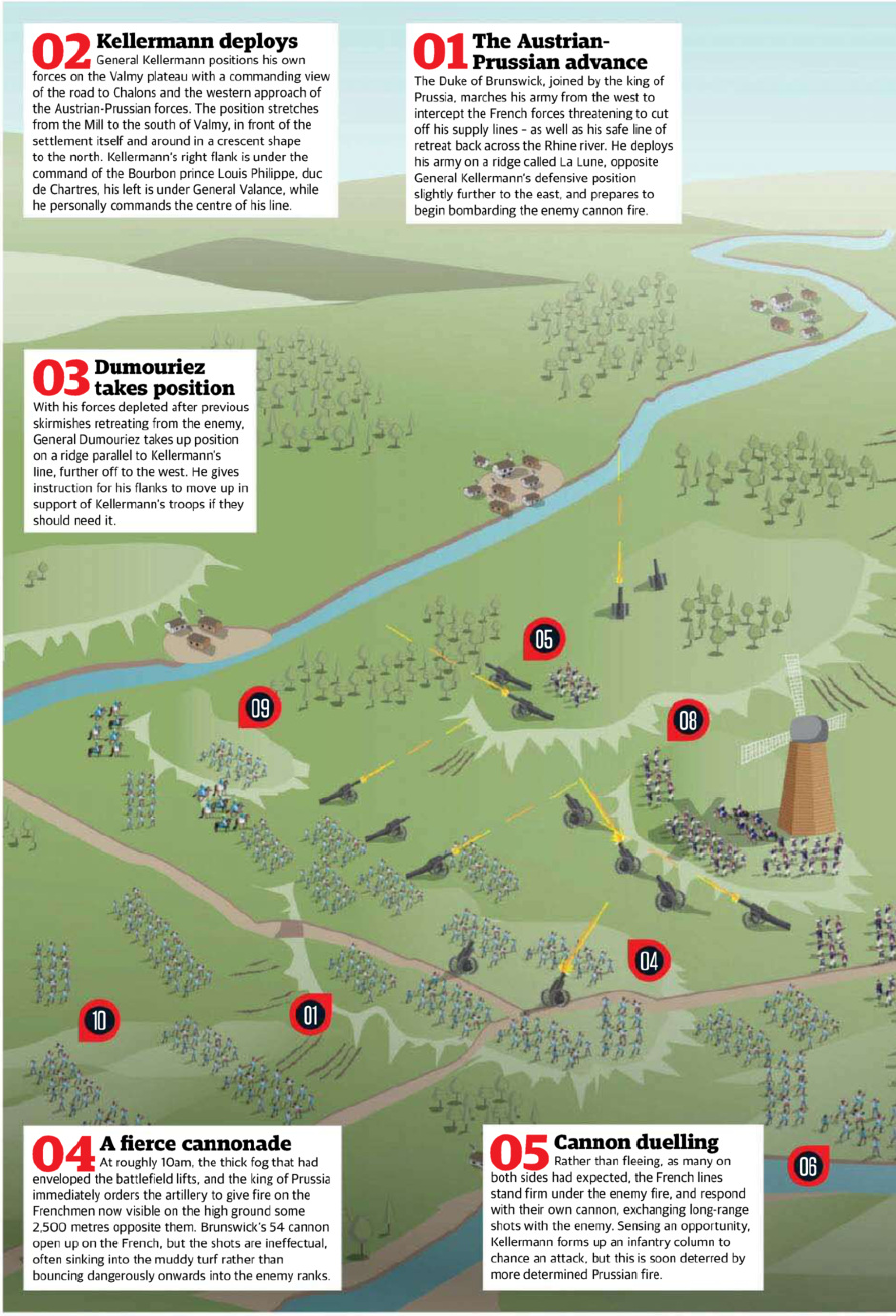
12-POUNDER CANNON

KEY WEAPON

Though Napoleon would later use his Grande Batterie to great effect, France already had a reputation for impressive artillery.

Strengths Devastating field gun capable of destroying packed ranks.

Weakness Cannonballs would become stuck in softer ground, reducing their impact.



01 The Austrian-Prussian advance

The Duke of Brunswick, joined by the king of Prussia, marches his army from the west to intercept the French forces threatening to cut off his supply lines – as well as his safe line of retreat back across the Rhine river. He deploys his army on a ridge called La Lune, opposite General Kellermann's defensive position slightly further to the east, and prepares to begin bombarding the enemy cannon fire.

02 Kellermann deploys

General Kellermann positions his own forces on the Valmy plateau with a commanding view of the road to Chalons and the western approach of the Austrian-Prussian forces. The position stretches from the Mill to the south of Valmy, in front of the settlement itself and around in a crescent shape to the north. Kellermann's right flank is under the command of the Bourbon prince Louis Philippe, duc de Chartres, his left is under General Valance, while he personally commands the centre of his line.

03 Dumouriez takes position

With his forces depleted after previous skirmishes retreating from the enemy, General Dumouriez takes up position on a ridge parallel to Kellermann's line, further off to the west. He gives instruction for his flanks to move up in support of Kellermann's troops if they should need it.

04 A fierce cannonade

At roughly 10am, the thick fog that had enveloped the battlefield lifts, and the king of Prussia immediately orders the artillery to give fire on the Frenchmen now visible on the high ground some 2,500 metres opposite them. Brunswick's 54 cannon open up on the French, but the shots are ineffectual, often sinking into the muddy turf rather than bouncing dangerously onwards into the enemy ranks.

05 Cannon duelling

Rather than fleeing, as many on both sides had expected, the French lines stand firm under the enemy fire, and respond with their own cannon, exchanging long-range shots with the enemy. Sensing an opportunity, Kellermann forms up an infantry column to chance an attack, but this is soon deterred by more determined Prussian fire.

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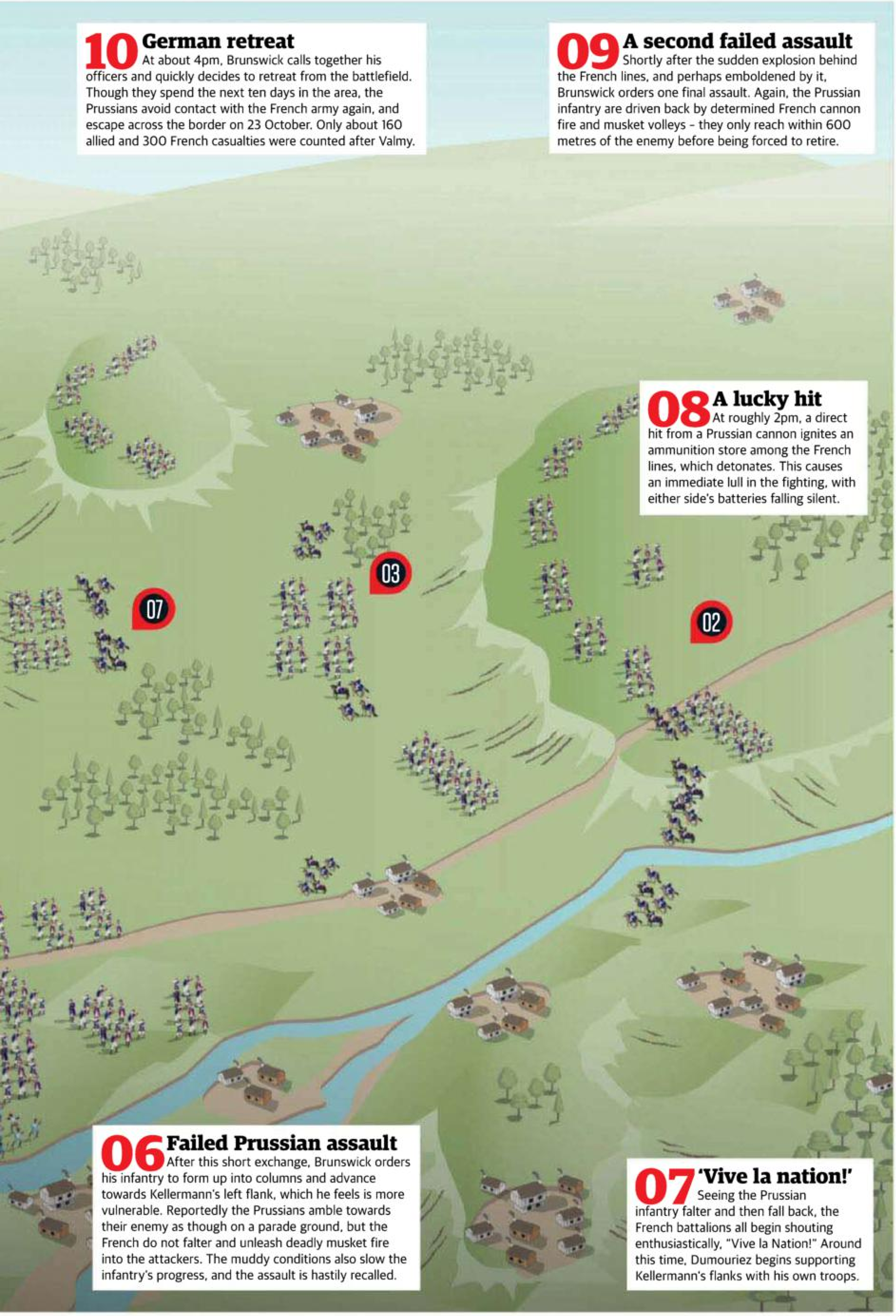


06 Failed Prussian assault

After this short exchange, Brunswick orders his infantry to form up into columns and advance towards Kellermann's left flank, which he feels is more vulnerable. Reportedly the Prussians amble towards their enemy as though on a parade ground, but the French do not falter and unleash deadly musket fire into the attackers. The muddy conditions also slow the infantry's progress, and the assault is hastily recalled.

07 'Vive la nation!'

Seeing the Prussian infantry falter and then fall back, the French battalions all begin shouting enthusiastically, "Vive la Nation!" Around this time, Dumouriez begins supporting Kellermann's flanks with his own troops.

08 A lucky hit

At roughly 2pm, a direct hit from a Prussian cannon ignites an ammunition store among the French lines, which detonates. This causes an immediate lull in the fighting, with either side's batteries falling silent.

09 A second failed assault

Shortly after the sudden explosion behind the French lines, and perhaps emboldened by it, Brunswick orders one final assault. Again, the Prussian infantry are driven back by determined French cannon fire and musket volleys – they only reach within 600 metres of the enemy before being forced to retire.

10 German retreat

At about 4pm, Brunswick calls together his officers and quickly decides to retreat from the battlefield. Though they spend the next ten days in the area, the Prussians avoid contact with the French army again, and escape across the border on 23 October. Only about 160 allied and 300 French casualties were counted after Valmy.

Austrian-Prussian army

TROOPS C.70,000
CANNON 54

DUKE OF BRUNSWICK

LEADER

The Prussian nobleman was a gifted strategist and a veteran of the Seven Years' War.

Strengths Great understanding of logistics and commanding a vast field army.

Weakness Underestimating the capabilities of his enemy.

PRUSSIAN INFANTRY

KEY UNIT

Among the most effective infantry in Europe, well trained for life on the battlefield.

Strengths Superb discipline, training and equipment.

Weakness Overconfidence in their ability.

POTSDAM 1740 MUSKET

KEY WEAPON

One of the most prolific firearms in Europe, it was also carried by German mercenaries during the American Revolution.

Strengths Percussion caps improved the firing mechanism.

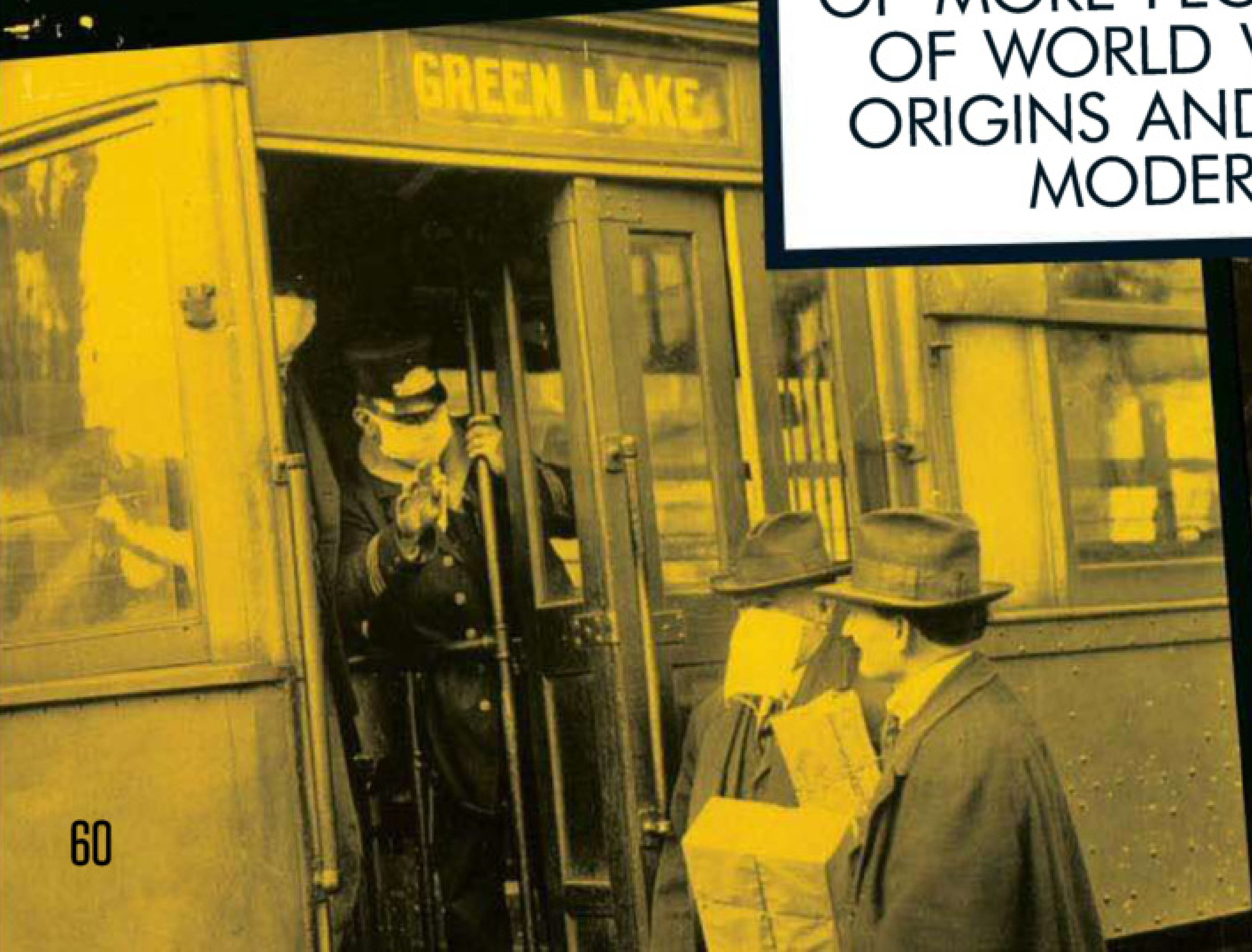
Weakness Muzzle-loading weapon meant slow reloading time.

© Alamy, Ed Crooks

Farmers attempting to protect themselves from the Spanish Flu in Canada, 1918

CONTAGI

THE SPANISH FLU CLAIMED THE LIVES OF MORE PEOPLE THAN THE WHOLE OF WORLD WAR I. UNCOVER THE ORIGINS AND AFTERMATH OF THIS MODERN BLACK DEATH



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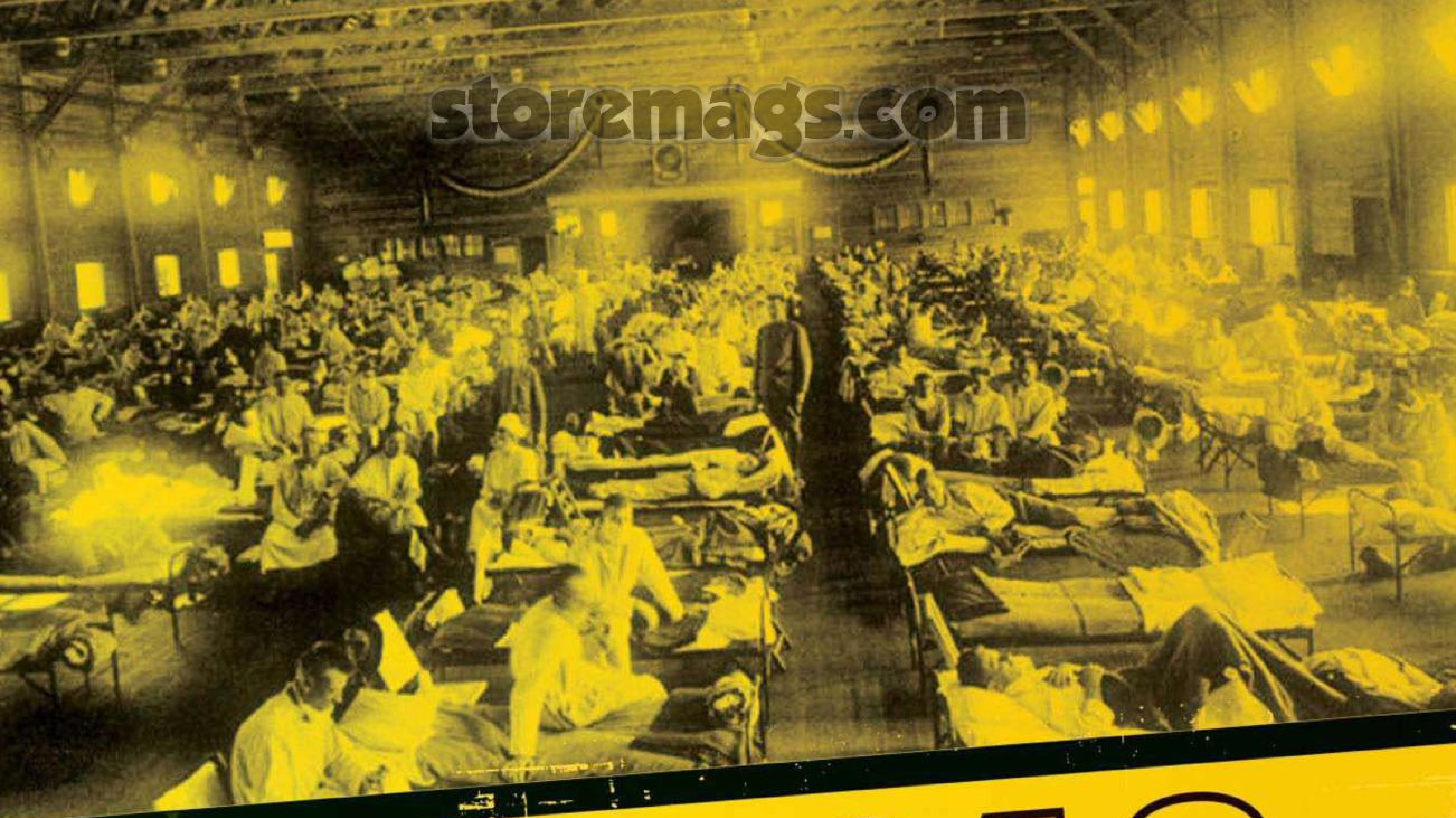
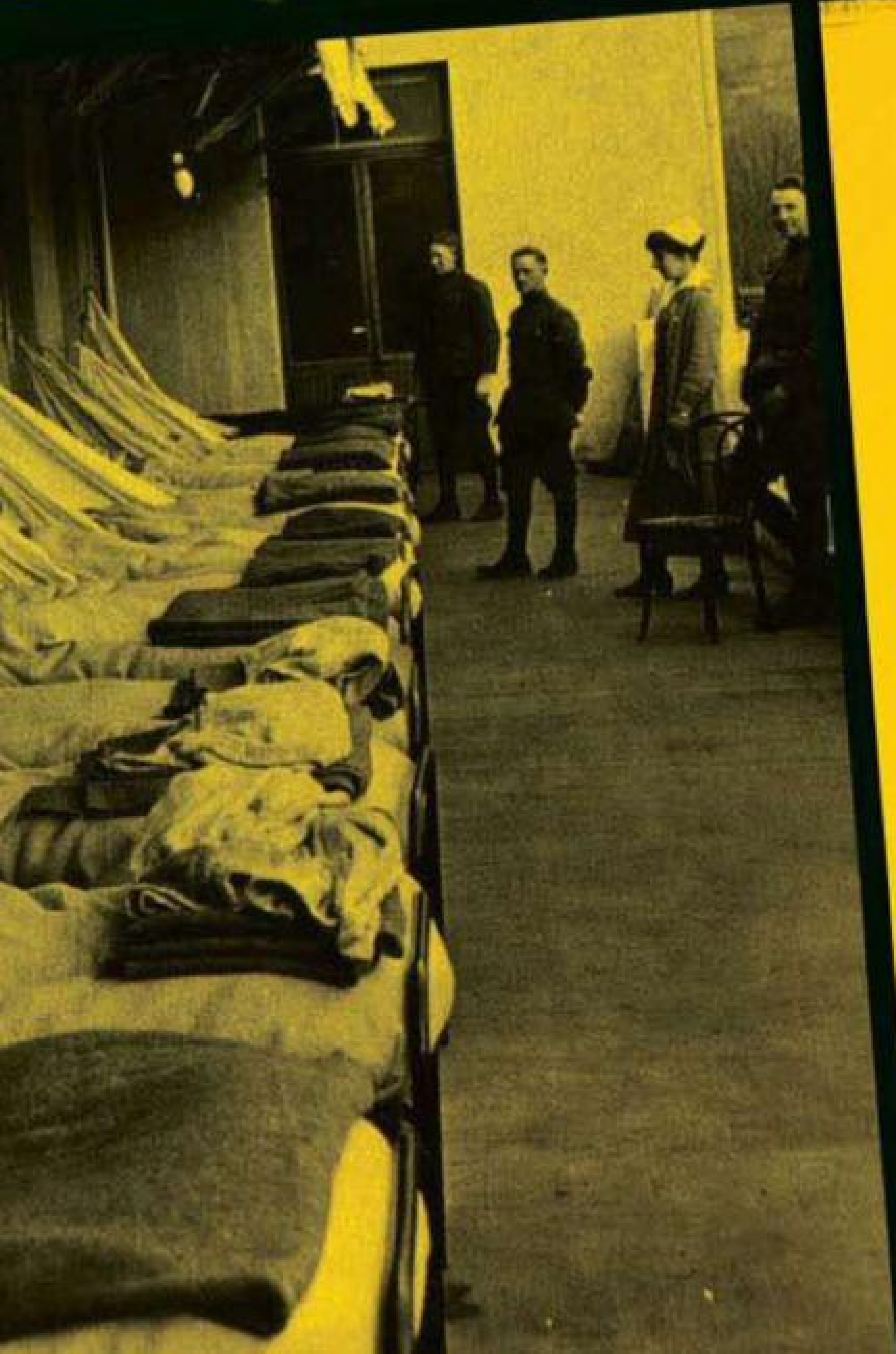


N:1918

Written by Nell Darby



A group of children play in one of London's parks. They are happy and giggling, pleased that the council has closed their school for the week. The streets they walked through to get to this park were quieter than usual, and when they passed adults, they had scarves clutched to their mouths and noses. Some even wore odd-looking masks, like the injured soldiers have been wearing since they returned from the war, to keep people from staring at the burns and the scars they now bear. The children start singing, and even though many adults near them are closeted in their houses and flats, their windows clamped shut, they can still hear the high-pitched words of the children:

I had a little bird
Its name was Enza
I opened the window
And in-flew-Enza

The song's words conceal the true horror behind this seemingly cheerful picture. A strain of influenza - known as Spanish Flu - has struck not only the local community but the wider world, spreading rapidly and striking indiscriminately. The young, the old, the sick and the healthy are being infected, and at least ten per cent of everyone contaminated will die. This is a world that has just endured the horrors of war. Many families will not see their fathers, brothers or husbands return from the battlefields, and others will see them come home as changed men, damaged by their experiences. Still, there's hope everything will go back to what it was, but it quickly becomes clear there is a new, even deadlier battle on the horizon.

The Great War might even have been responsible for the Spanish Flu pandemic, which ended up killing millions of people worldwide. Towards the end of the war, many soldiers, in their cramped, dirty and damp trenches in northern France, were falling sick. Their tendency to become ill was put down to 'world-weariness' caused by their experiences - their immune systems were weakened, and they were malnourished, meaning their bodies weren't strong enough to fight off infection. They couldn't eat; they had sore throats and headaches.

Their illnesses, which were known locally as 'la grippe', were contagious and spread among the soldiers. Within around three days, most soldiers would usually start to feel better - but not all, and some wouldn't make it home. Lieutenant Leo

Mansfield Matthews, aged 35, had volunteered for active service, and had been on the front since September 1916. He died in hospital there on 25 June 1918, remembered by his fellow soldiers as a bright, confident man who managed to cheer up his men "even in the most depressing moments."

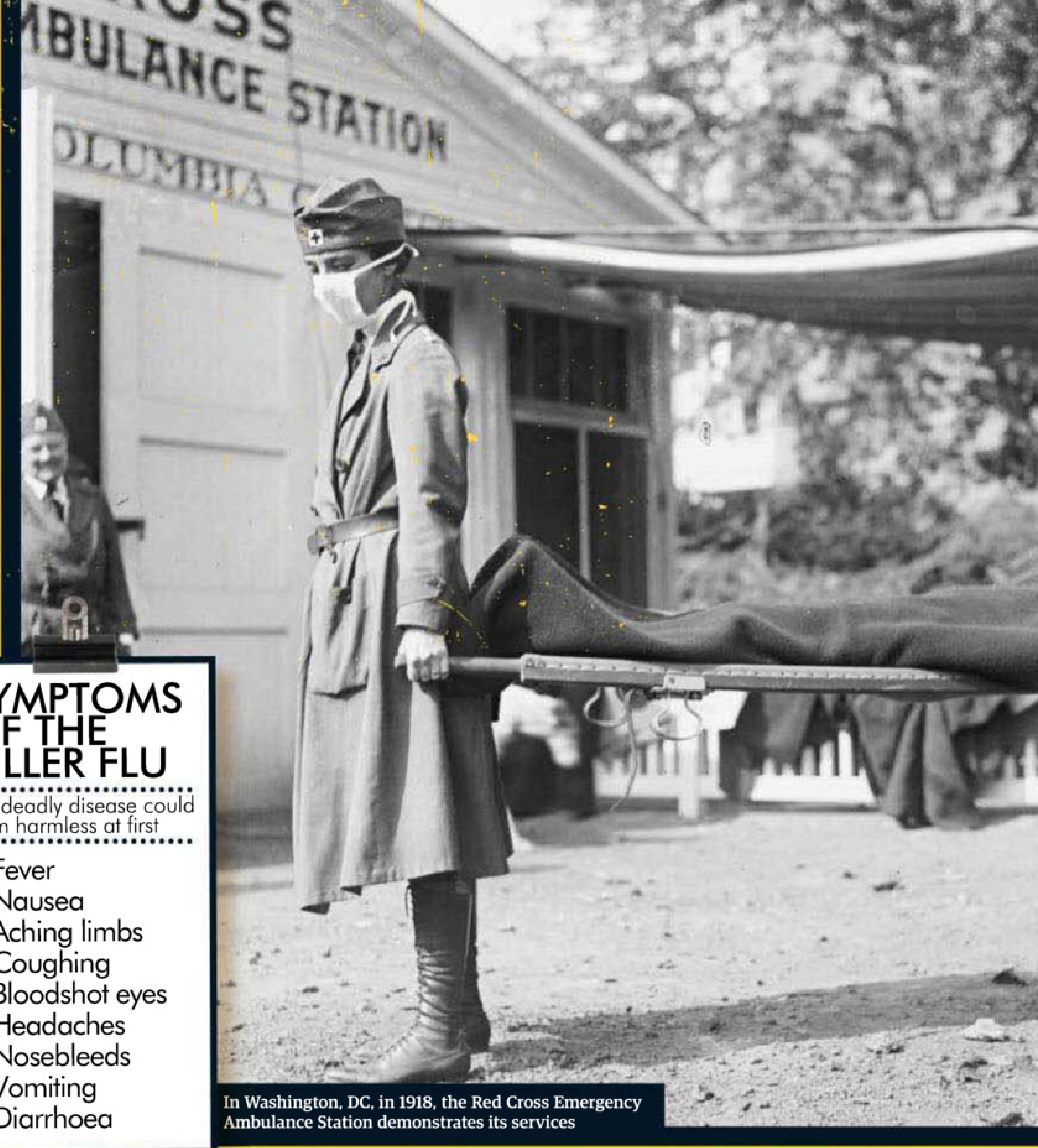
During the summer of 1918, troops started to return to Britain, travelling by train. They brought with them the underlying virus that had made them ill, spreading it out across the cities, towns and villages. For some of their families, the happiness they felt would soon be replaced by horror and grief. There was no rapid recovery for either soldiers or civilians. The virus particularly hit the young, those aged between 20 and 30. *The Times* reported: "Persons who feel perfectly well and are able to go about their business at 10 o'clock in the morning [are] prostrate at noon."

From the initial symptoms of a sore head and fatigue, suffers would develop a dry, hacking cough, a loss of appetite, stomach problems, and then, on the second day, excessive sweating. But then, the respiratory organs might start to become affected, increasing the risk of pneumonia. This happened with Howard Brooks, a 19-year-old Londoner who caught influenza and died of pneumonia. It also happened with 27-year-old naval instructor George Carter, who died of septic pneumonia following influenza. There were no antibiotics - no medicine that could make them feel better. Instead, the advice amounted to fresh air, cleanliness, a good diet and 'constant disinfection'.

SYMPTOMS OF THE KILLER FLU

The deadly disease could seem harmless at first

☑ Fever
☑ Nausea
☑ Aching limbs
☑ Coughing
☑ Bloodshot eyes
☑ Headaches
☑ Nosebleeds
☑ Vomiting
☑ Diarrhoea



In Washington, DC, in 1918, the Red Cross Emergency Ambulance Station demonstrates its services

> "Doctors were at a loss as to what to recommend to their patients; many urged them to avoid crowded places, or simply other people"

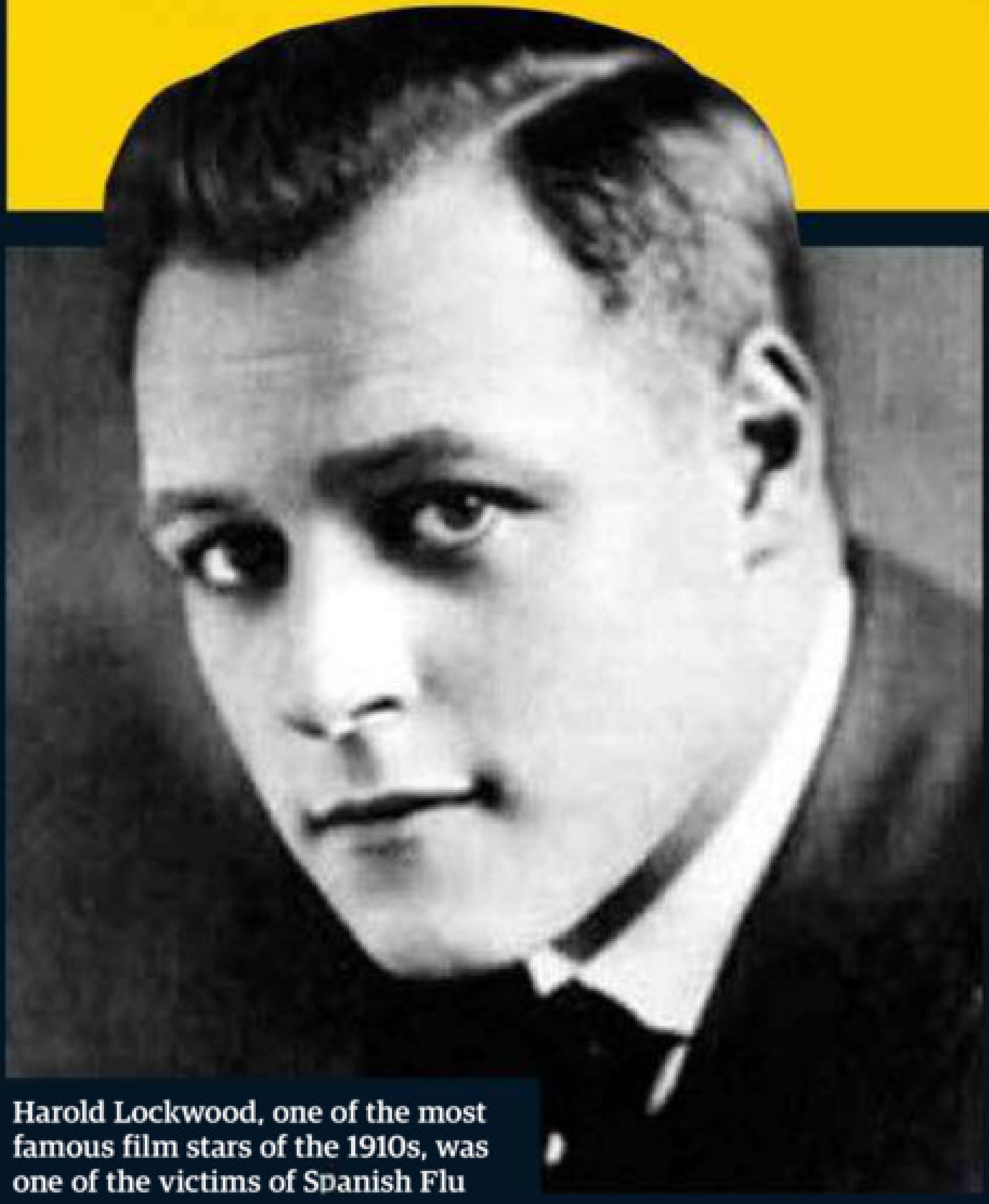
HITTING THE HEADLINES

The papers, from January 1918 onwards, were reporting cases of influenza without making any link between them explicit. Instead the instances were reported as isolated, unrelated cases. People were dying in the UK of influenza, but it was Spain - one of the earliest countries to be hit, and which gave its name to this strain of the virus - that received the most attention. However, even in May 1918, the Spanish ambassador in London had stated, "The epidemic which has broken out in Spain is not of a serious character. The illness presents the symptoms of influenza with slight gastric disturbance." But a week later, *The Times*, which had reported the ambassador's PR attempt as a true statement, was taking a different, more panicked, approach.

By now, 700 people had died in ten days in Spain, and it was being reported that more than 100,000 people there had become infected within the two weeks since it had "appeared in Madrid". The papers now regretted their previous flippant tone, and stated that the epidemic had "passed the joking stage." The flu had begun to spread beyond Spain, and reached Morocco. The king of Spain, Alfonso XIII, had been struck down with it, along with leading politicians. Where people worked or lived in close confines to each other, such as in schools, barracks and government buildings, 30 to 40 per cent of their populations were becoming infected. The Madrid tram system had to be reduced, and the telegraph service was disturbed - in both cases because there were not enough healthy employees available to work. Pressure was being put on the medical service and supplies, and they were failing.

Soon, it was being reported that the Spanish Flu had spread to other countries in mainland Europe. One high-profile victim was the sultan of Turkey, whose death was reported in the *Daily Mirror* on 5 July 1918 - the paper regarding his death as rather trivial as, "...he was a regarded as a nonentity in the hands of his advisers." Vienna and Budapest were suffering; parts of Germany and France were similarly affected. Many children in Berlin schools were reported as being ill and off school, and in the armament and munitions works, absences were affecting production. In Frankfurt's factories, up to 50 per cent of workers were ill. The epidemic then reached Switzerland, with 7,000 cases being reported among soldiers of the Swiss army, and half of the population of Môtiers in the Vale-de-Travers were sick with the flu.

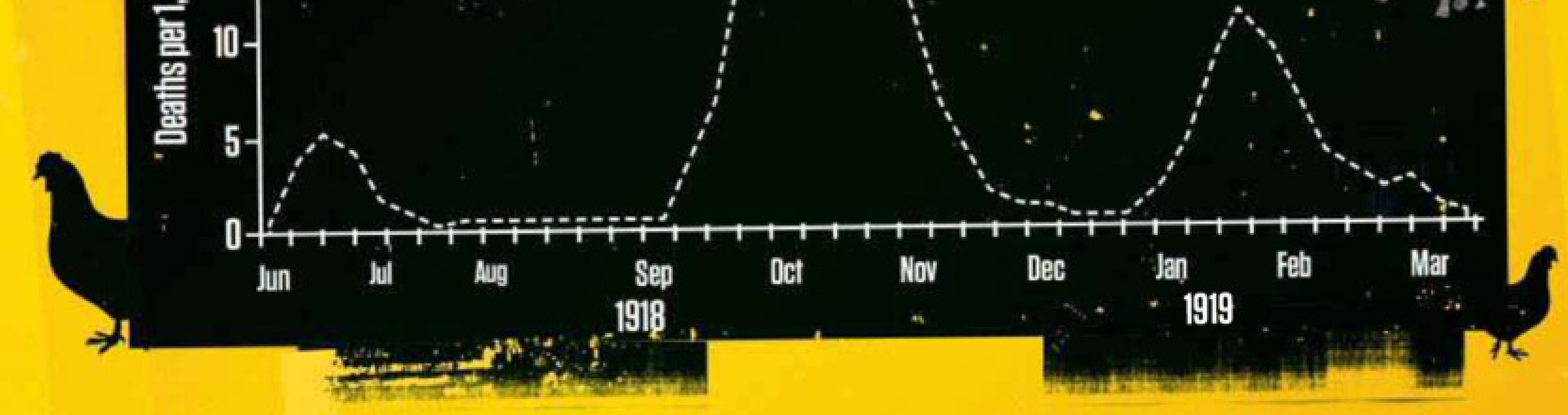
Initially, when the epidemic was still seen as being restricted to Spain, it was noted that men were more likely to be infected than women, and that adults were at far more risk than children. Similarly, once it became a pandemic and had spread to Switzerland, it was stressed that men aged between 20 and 40 were most at risk. However, it was also said that those "on the slippery descent of middle age" were more likely to die once infected, because they tried to "fight" the symptoms too hard - instead of simply taking some quinine and going to bed.



Harold Lockwood, one of the most famous film stars of the 1910s, was one of the victims of Spanish Flu

The term 'Spanish influenza' rapidly took hold in Britain. The papers blamed the flu epidemic occurring there on the Spanish weather - their spring was dry and windy - an "unpleasant and unhealthy season" that saw microbe-laden dust being spread by the high winds. Therefore, the wet weather that most of Britain was subject to might stop the flu spreading there.

Many ordinary people had, due to World War I, become interested in foreign affairs, and had read about the epidemic, discussing it with their friends and anticipating its arrival on British shores. Conspiracy theories abounded - were the Germans carrying test tubes containing cultures from all known viruses, and trying to infect other nations? Or was it the fault of Russia, the land of 'melodramatic mysteries'? The former theory was debunked at the end of June when the German army was affected by the epidemic and many soldiers were too ill to fight.



CONSPIRACY THEORIES

One of the side effects of the virus appeared to be a deep depression, and this was seen to be a symptom that might have been conjured up by those wanting to destroy morale. One victim was reported as saying, "Well, it cures ambition," and this summed up the lesser-known dangers of becoming infected. Doctors were at a loss as to what to recommend to their patients; many urged them to avoid crowded places, or simply other people; other remedies included eating cinnamon and drinking wine or even Oxo's meat drink. Positives were sought; when it was reported that the Allies had had a good week on the front in France, it was speculated that this might have been helped by the flu.

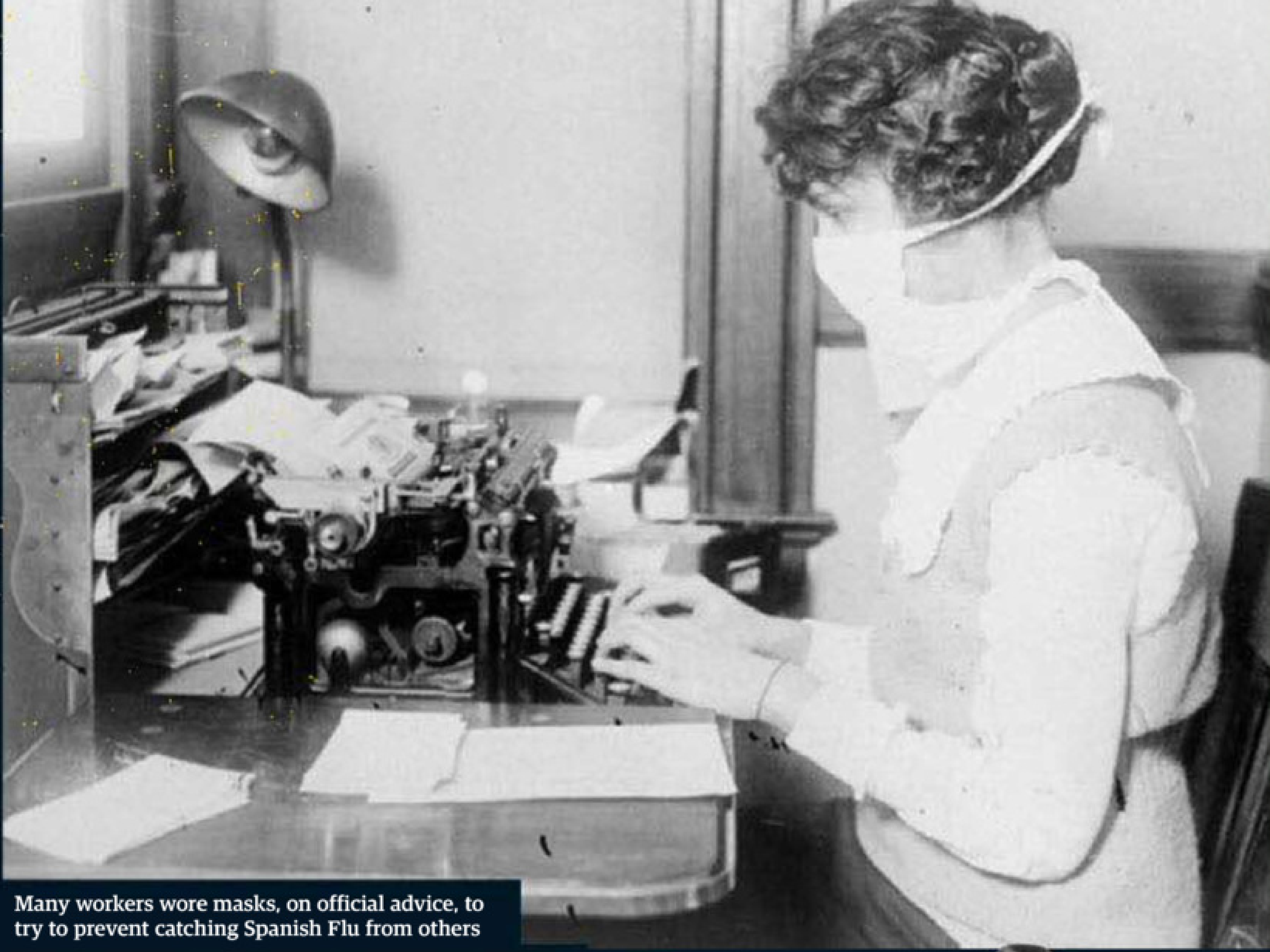
It was, perhaps, inevitable that conspiracy theories would spread - the British press was subject to censorship during this period of war, and if the seriousness of the flu pandemic had been recognised in the press early on, this might have affected the nation's morale. To stress the impact of the flu on the enemy German forces had a useful propaganda effect, and so it was in the newspapers' - as well as the British government's - interest to highlight only the 'foreign' cases. Spain, however, did not have press censorship, and published freer accounts of the illness in its pages. This had the effect of making people erroneously think it was an illness specific to Spain - Spanish Flu - and the name stuck.

By 25 June 1918, it was recognised that the flu epidemic had reached Britain. At a meeting of the Hitchin Rural Council in Hertfordshire that day, the councillors heard that 600 cases had been reported at two different factories in Letchworth. The medical advice was to avoid going to cinemas and other crowded places, and to keep the mouth and nose covered if going out. With cases mounting, a public notice was put in the British papers, advising people of the symptoms - but it turned out that this was actually an advertisement for Formamints, a tablet made and sold by a company that also sold Sanatogen vitamins. The advert claimed the mints were the "...best means of preventing the infective processes" and that everyone should suck four or five of these tablets a day until they felt better. Even as people were dying, there was money to be made by advertising 'cures' - especially as the medical profession seemed bereft of more practical ideas.

Once one person was infected, others quickly followed. In the Convent of Saint Vincent de Paul in Westminster, a 13-year-old girl died of the flu - she was believed to have infected 62 others in the convent. Two ten-year-old boys died in Deptford, with the coroner at their inquest suggesting that they should have rinsed their mouth and nostrils every morning with salt and water to avoid getting infected. In Birmingham, doctors said they were at their 'wits' end' and couldn't deal with the large number of patients - one doctor arrived at his surgery one morning to find nearly 200 people waiting to see him.

"Bodies piled up to such an extent it was said that families had to dig graves for their relatives"

Manchester's dispensing chemists had to introduce a controlled queuing system because of the sheer number of people seeking remedies. The epidemic also hit in unexpected ways - one man due to be tried for bigamy at the Assize courts escaped prosecution because he came down with the Spanish Flu. Whether he was too ill to attend court or the court officials were terrified of catching his illness is not known. Another man, Joseph Jackson, a discharged soldier who claimed to suffer from shellshock, was sentenced to six months in prison for GBH after attacking a police constable while drunk. His defence was that he had been suffering from Spanish Flu and a friend had advised him that drinking beer would cure him.



Many workers wore masks, on official advice, to try to prevent catching Spanish Flu from others

In army hospitals, patients' beds were reversed so that they would not breathe over each other

GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The lack of healthy workers affected all areas of daily life. Council workers became gravediggers, railway workers made coffins, and ambulance drivers found that their vehicles were now hearses. As with previous historical disasters - the plagues that had haunted England in previous centuries, for example - pressure was put on services by the sheer rate of deaths and the effect of the flu on those who survived.

The epidemic had rapidly become a pandemic, making its way around the world. In August 1918, six Canadian sailors died on the Saint Lawrence River from a "... strange illness, which is thought to have been the Spanish influenza." The same month, cases were reported among the Swedish army, then its civilian population, and also among South Africa's labouring population. The following month, it reached Boston through its port, and by the end of October, nearly 200,000 people in the USA had died. Bodies piled up to such an extent it was said that families had to dig graves for their relatives. There was a shortage of farm workers, which affected the late summer harvest, and, as in Britain, other services, such as the collection of rubbish, were put under pressure due to a lack of staff.

As in Britain, Americans were offered conflicting and confusing advice. They were warned not to shake hands, to stay indoors, not to touch library books and to wear masks at all times. Schools and theatres were closed, and a Sanitary Code was issued that made spitting in the streets illegal.

At one point, the use of aspirin was blamed for causing the pandemic - when it might actually have helped the ill. As a result of World War I, there was a shortage of doctors in some areas, and of those who were left, many became sick themselves. Makeshift hospitals were made out of schools and other buildings, and medical students had to take the place of some doctors.

Here, too, the flu virus hit people from all levels of society. The American president, Woodrow Wilson, was said to have been suffering from the flu while negotiating the Treaty of Versailles to end the war; Cawthra Mulock, described as "one of the very wealthy men of Toronto" died at New York from the virus in December 1918. 40 per cent of the US navy also became ill, and when four women sat down to a game of bridge one night, only one of them got up again the next day, the others having died of the flu overnight. It was estimated that some 28 per cent of the American population were infected by the virus. Elsewhere, the mortality rate was even worse. The pandemic spread to Asia, Africa, South America and the South Pacific, and in India, the morality rate was 50 deaths per 1,000 people - a shocking figure. As the Great War ended, the influenza pandemic became a new war that was being fought around the world.

By the spring of 1919, it was being reported that the numbers of deaths from the Spanish Flu were decreasing. This did not mean it came to a quick end, however, and although the pandemic eventually lost its power and died out, it did so only after attacking more than one-third of the world's population, leaving 50 million dead. It showed the inability of the medical profession to do anything to halt its progress - echoing what had happened 500 years earlier with the Black Death. The Spanish Flu was the last of the great plagues and to this day scientists strive to learn more about what happened in 1918 to ensure that history is not repeated.

SPANISH FLU STATISTICS

12 YEARS

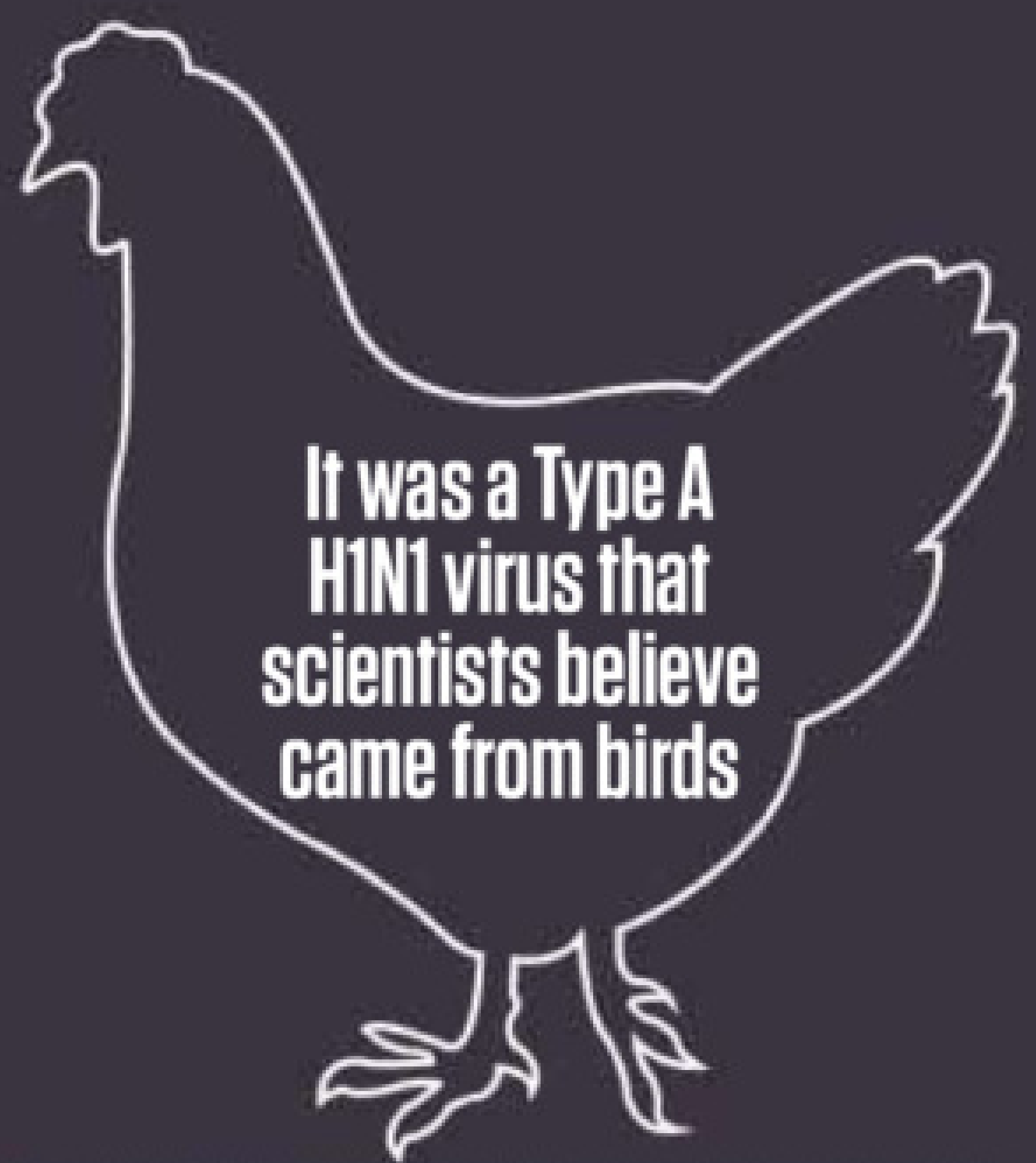
The amount American life expectancy dropped by as a result of the pandemic

10-20%

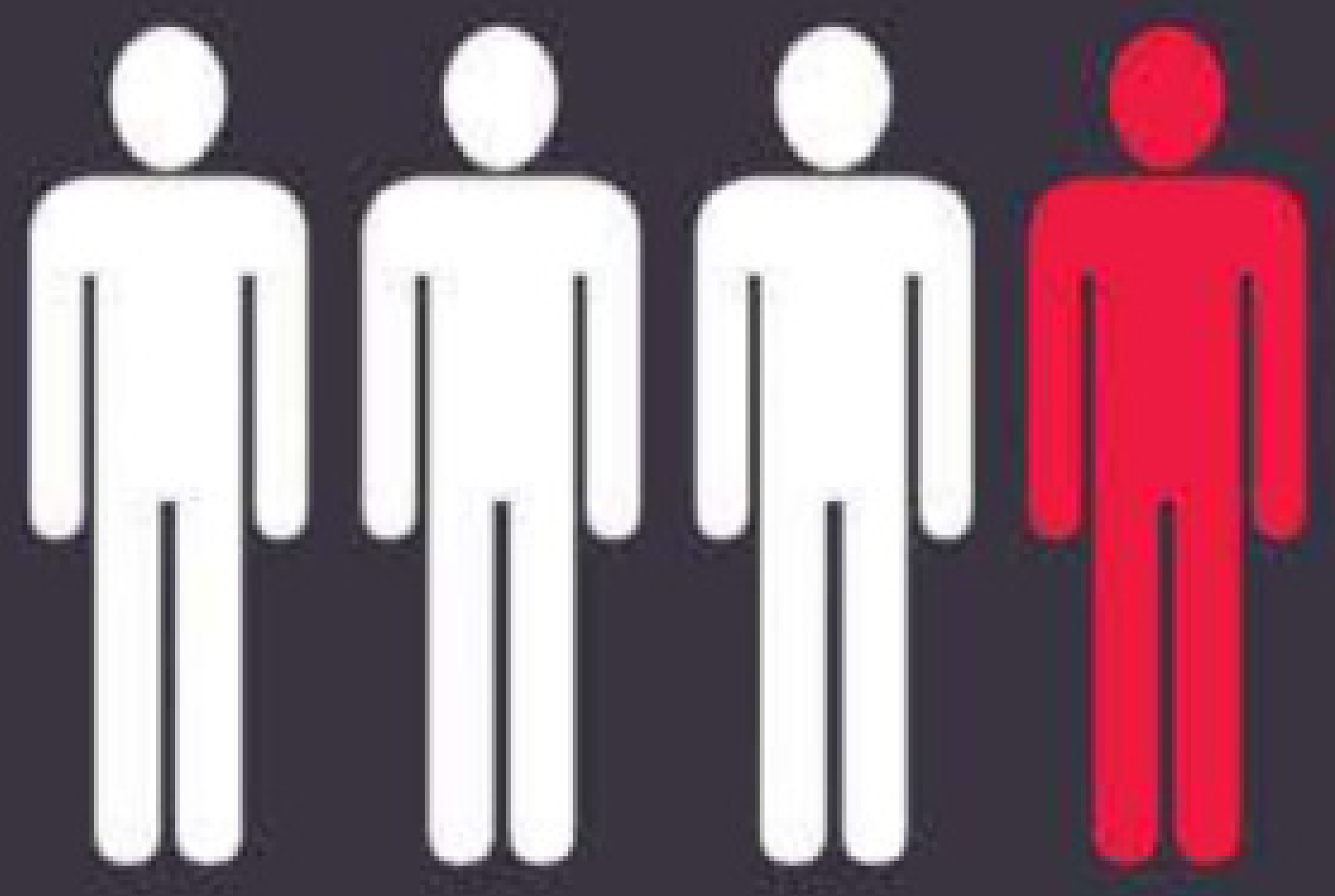
The mortality rate of those who were infected with the virus

228,000

The number of people in Britain who died of Spanish Flu

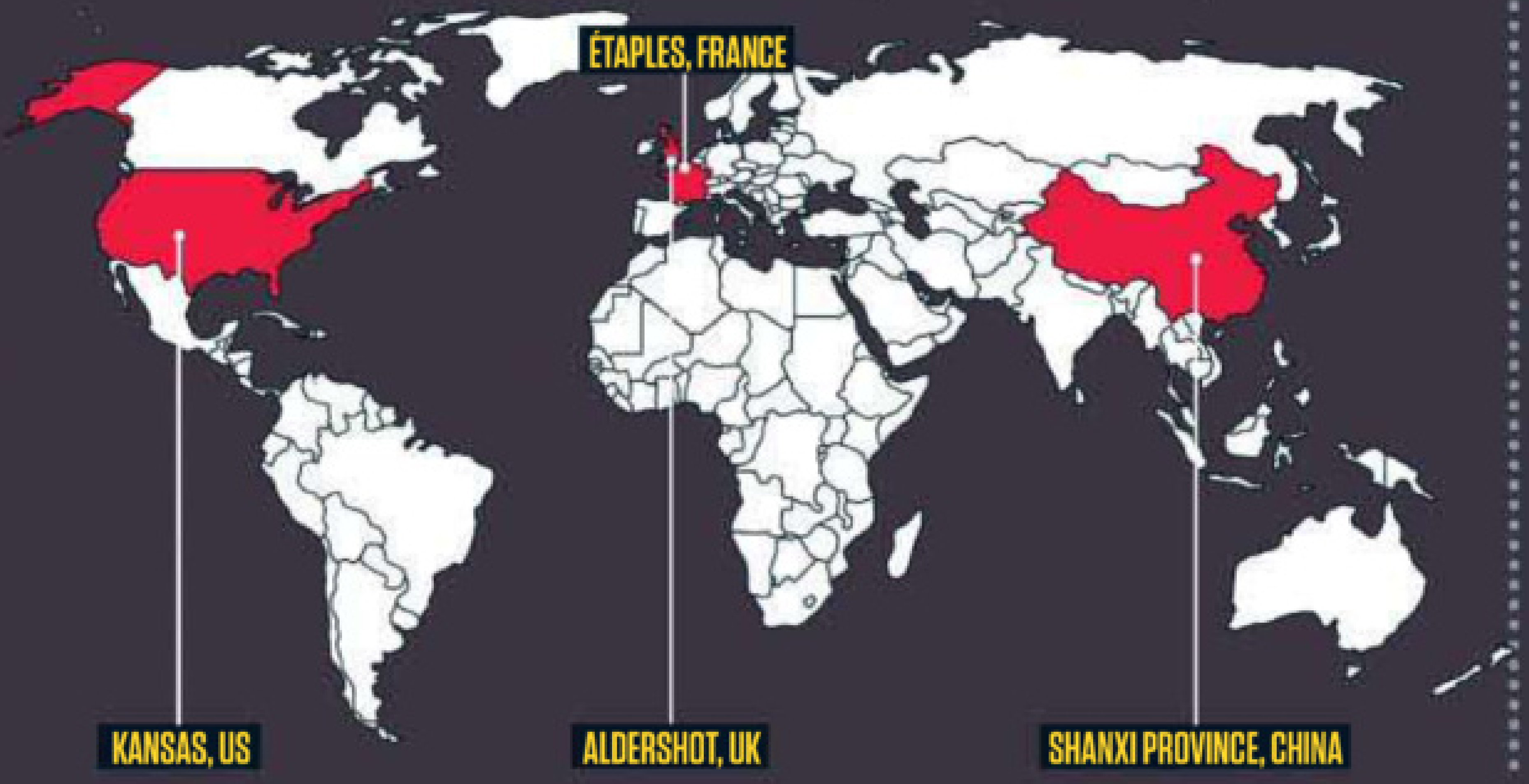


It was a Type A H1N1 virus that scientists believe came from birds



1 in 4 Americans were infected

4 POSSIBLE ORIGINS OF THE PANDEMIC



675,000

The estimated number of Americans who died

1/3

of the world's population may have been infected

2

Years the pandemic was at its peak (1918-19)

3,000

The number of Chinese Labour Corps workers who got flu-like symptoms

50,000

Canadians died of Spanish Flu

HERO OR VILLAIN?

Douglas MacArthur

The American general led forces to victory in three great wars. The public adored him, but his soldiers in World War II despised him for his ego

Written by William E Welsh

As the Sun dipped low on the fields of Lorraine on the afternoon of 26 February 1918, veteran poilus - French WWI infantrymen - were gearing up for a nighttime trench raid. Craving the heat of combat, Colonel Douglas MacArthur pleaded with General Georges de Bazelaire to let him join them. As a member of staff officer, his superior Major General Charles Menoher wouldn't have allowed it. With Bazelaire's permission, the poilus kitted him out with the tools of their trade: black face paint, wire cutters, and a trench knife. But crawling across no-man's-land, they were spotted.

Flares arced across the black sky, howitzers boomed and machine guns clattered. They had lost the element of surprise but MacArthur and the poilus jumped into the trench, wrestled with the Germans, and drove them back. They bagged a number of prisoners, including a colonel. "The fight was savage and merciless," wrote MacArthur. "A grenade, tossed into a dugout where the surviving Germans had fled, ended it." Bazelaire presented him with a Croix de Guerre - a French medal for bravery - and Menoher awarded him the Silver Star - the third-highest military decoration for valour in the US. MacArthur knew that to lead men, he must know first-hand what dangers they faced.

Douglas MacArthur was born into the military at the Arsenal Barracks in Little Rock, Arkansas, on 26 January 1880. After attending a military school in Texas, he overcame a spinal curvature and a heavily crowded field of candidates to enter the US Military Academy at West Point in 1899. Upon graduating, Second Lieutenant MacArthur headed to the Philippines in 1903 where he worked as a military engineer for several years. When World War I broke out, newly minted Colonel MacArthur was appointed chief of staff to the 42nd "Rainbow" Division.

MacArthur was promoted to brigadier in the US National Army in June 1918 and given command of the 84th Brigade. The brigade saw action in the Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives of 1918. By the time the war was over, he had earned six Silver Stars and two Distinguished Service Crosses. He had proved that he was a leader of men, and he basked in the admiration of those who fought with him. However, as he rose to the upper echelon of US Army command during World War II and the Korean War, he would become increasingly alienated from

Defining moment

Fighting Retreat to Bataan

MacArthur skilfully directed the tactical withdrawal of Filipino-American troops on Luzon Island to a strong defensive position on the Bataan peninsula following the Japanese invasion of the northern Philippines. The operation required a high degree of synchronisation, and the troops rose to the challenge. They maintained high morale throughout, in large part due to MacArthur's leadership.

January 1942

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> "He seemed to have no empathy for the downtrodden and it was apparent that what he cared about most was his career"

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General John Pershing pins a Distinguished Service Medal on Brigadier General MacArthur in France. He received multiple awards for bravery in battle during World War I

After two years leading forces against the Japanese in the Southwestern Pacific, General MacArthur wades ashore at Leyte on 20 October 1944

Defining moment

Inchon Landing Debate

US military planners gave a host of reasons that Inchon was not the best location for an amphibious landing. It lacked beaches, the bay was too narrow and the approach was probably sewn with mines. MacArthur refused to reconsider. He pointed out that the Japanese had come ashore twice at Inchon in past wars. If they could do it, he argued, then so could the UN forces.

August 1950

the troops he commanded. Some of this would be his fault, for he purposely surrounded himself with sycophants to stroke his ego, and he focused official correspondence more on his own achievements than on those of the soldiers at the battlefront.

Following the Great War, MacArthur did a three-year stint as superintendant at the Military Academy, and in 1925 he was promoted to major general. Before the decade was over, he had divorced his socialite wife, Louise Cromwell MacArthur, and four years before the entrance of the US into World War II, he married Jean Marie Faircloth, who was far more of a kindred spirit than his first wife. They had one son, Arthur, who was named after Douglas's father.

President Herbert Hoover appointed MacArthur to serve as army chief of staff in 1930. During his tenure, he consolidated nine armies into four, thereby increasing the army's efficiency. During his time as chief of staff, a major political event occurred that was to stain his career. Thousands of impoverished World War I veterans and their families arrived in Washington, DC in the summer of 1932 for a major protest. They demanded immediate payment on bonus certificates they had received eight years earlier for their service in the Great War. Hoover ordered them to be driven out of town, and MacArthur sent armed soldiers to remove them from their campsites. His heavy-handed treatment contributed to what became a shameful episode of the Hoover administration. He seemed to have no empathy for the downtrodden and it was apparent that what he cared about most was his career.

> "Due to what they perceived as his lack of interest in their welfare, the GIs despised him"

MacArthur returned to the Philippines in 1935. President Franklin D Roosevelt approved MacArthur to serve as military adviser to the Philippine Commonwealth and its president, Manuel Quezon. The major general was to strengthen the Philippine army and enhance the island nation's defences in the face of Imperial Japan's anticipated invasion. Although he boasted that he would build up the Philippine army so any aggressor would think twice about attacking it, both he and US military planners knew Japan could easily overrun the archipelago. Both in his public statements and written reports, MacArthur exaggerated the state of readiness of the Philippine military forces on multiple occasions.

Such overt deception was inexcusable. The Philippine forces were no match for the Japanese, as the events of December 1941 would prove. A few months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, MacArthur was promoted to lieutenant general and named commander of the US Armed Forces in the Far East. MacArthur was so stunned by the Japanese attack on the Philippines on 8 December 1941 that he stumbled on the first day, unable to respond effectively to the unfolding events. Through a combination of factors, the US Army Air Force lost the majority of its aircraft stationed on Luzon. In the days that followed, he successfully directed a fighting withdrawal to the Bataan Peninsula to await relief. But it never came. Roosevelt and other officials misled MacArthur and his troops into believing they might be reinforced, but the war in Europe was given first priority.

MacArthur exhibited some episodes of bizarre behaviour during the roughly three months he was at Corregidor. He pleaded with Washington for sorties from aircraft carriers, which was a totally unrealistic request given the sweeping nature of the Japanese campaign in the Southwestern Pacific. Inexplicably, he made only one visit during that time to the front lines on Bataan even though it was only ten minutes

The Inchon landing in September 1950 was the masterstroke of MacArthur's career and resulted in the recapture of Seoul in just two weeks

MacArthur and his generals in South Korea in January 1951. US President Harry Truman forced his resignation three months later when he overstepped his bounds as a military commander

away by boat. Due to what they perceived as his lack of interest in their welfare, the GIs on Bataan despised him. They called him "Dugout Doug".

In March 1942, Roosevelt ordered the US Navy to escort MacArthur and President Quezon to safety. Controversially, MacArthur accepted the equivalent of $500,000 from Quezon on behalf of the Philippine Commonwealth for "distinguished service." Although against army regulation, MacArthur deposited it. He informed Roosevelt and other top officials, and they tacitly approved it.

To counter Axis propaganda that he was a coward for leaving his troops for the safety of Australia, he was appointed supreme commander of the Southwest Pacific Area and given the Medal of Honor. Of the Philippines, MacArthur vowed: "I shall return." Of the 75,000 or so troops on Bataan who surrendered on 9 April 1942, 12,300 died on the 100-kilometre march to prison camps on Luzon.

Defining moment

Underestimating the Chinese

In their meeting at Wake Island, President Truman asked MacArthur whether Red China was likely to enter the war. MacArthur said it was unlikely since the Communists lacked an air force. Moreover, he told Truman they were not likely to launch a major offensive with winter approaching. MacArthur had failed to anticipate the Chinese entry into the Korean War.

October 1950

MacArthur directed the repulse of the Japanese from New Guinea, and he eventually waded ashore in the Philippines with his troops on 20 October 1944. Two months later he was promoted to general of the army. On 2 September 1945, he accepted the Japanese surrender on board USS Missouri, and subsequently served as military governor of Japan. MacArthur oversaw the rebuilding of Japan's economic infrastructure over the next five years, but as his work in Japan wound down, a new war broke out in Asia.

The Korean peninsula had been a global hotspot following Japan's surrender. On 25 June 1950, the communist Korean Peoples' Army invaded South Korea. MacArthur, who by then was 70 years old, was appointed commander-in-chief of the UN Command while retaining his other posts as commander of US forces in the Pacific theatre. He immediately began planning an amphibious invasion at Inchon, which would outflank the enemy's forward positions in South Korea. Marine amphibious forces spearheaded the landing in mid-September, and UN forces drove the Korean People's Army several hundred kilometres to the Yalu River.

Chinese and American forces clashed for the first time at the Battle of Unsan. The situation went from bad to worse. As snow began falling in the mountains of North Korea, Chinese forces overran US forces at Chosin Reservoir. In the weeks that followed, MacArthur asked President Harry Truman for permission to bomb Chinese bases in Manchuria. Truman, who opposed widening the war, was adamant that this should not occur. When MacArthur made it a divisive political issue between Republicans and Democrats, Truman instructed the joint chiefs of staff to remove him from command on the grounds that he made a public statement contradicting the Truman administration's policy on the war. The old general had fought his last battle, and he passed away on 5 April 1964.

Was Douglas MacArthur a hero or a villain? Let us know what you think

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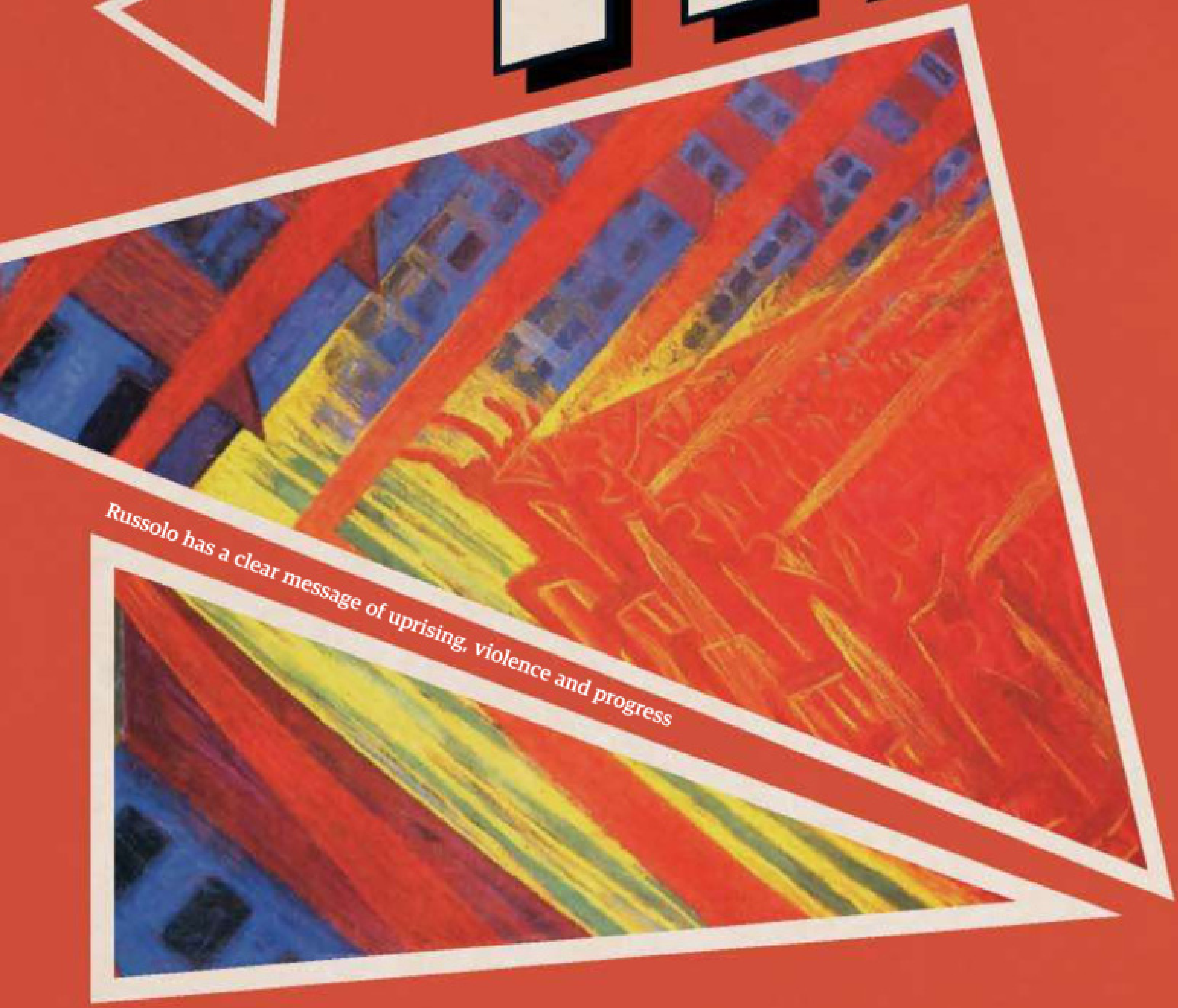
Giacomo Balla's *Dynamism Of A Dog On A Leash*, 1911, displays an obvious appreciation of speed and movement

ITALIAN

Delve into the artistic movement that inspired rebellion, glorified war, assaulted the senses and vehemently embraced the avant-garde

Written by Ella Carter



Russolo has a clear message of uprising, violence and progress

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The founders of Futurism: L-R Luigi Russolo, Carlo Carrà, →

FUTURISM AND FASCISM

← Filippo Marinetti, Umberto Boccioni, Gino Severini

If asked to describe Italian art, the picture many of us would paint is of the great, classical Renaissance artists. Vast canvasses of dramatic religious scenes, full of texture, light and darkness most often come to mind. While it's true that these masterpieces are very much a part of quintessential Italian culture, there's an altogether more rebellious and controversial side to Italy's creative history that sometimes slips beneath the radar: welcome to Futurism.

This movement both started and ended with the work of a wealthy French-Italian called Filippo Tommaso Marinetti. A writer and poet, Marinetti was the driving force behind the Futurists, who were essentially pioneers for radical - and sometimes violent - change. Born in 1876, the Italy that Marinetti knew growing up was in turmoil. Having been recently unified under one flag in 1861, the new nation endured a period known as 'Risorgimento' (which translates as 'rising again'). Italy was grappling with the instability of a constitutional monarchy, and was governed by parties that were unable to claim a majority vote. The country faced a large debt, there was widespread poverty, little industry or infrastructure, and Italy was very much lagging behind its rivals.

Marinetti's ideal was to push Italy forward into a modern era with a movement that glorified speed, mechanics and change. He wanted technology to triumph over nature and to do something totally different in order to shock the nation into progress. To launch this movement, Marinetti used his poetic and literary gravitas to produce and publish a manifesto.

MANIFESTO

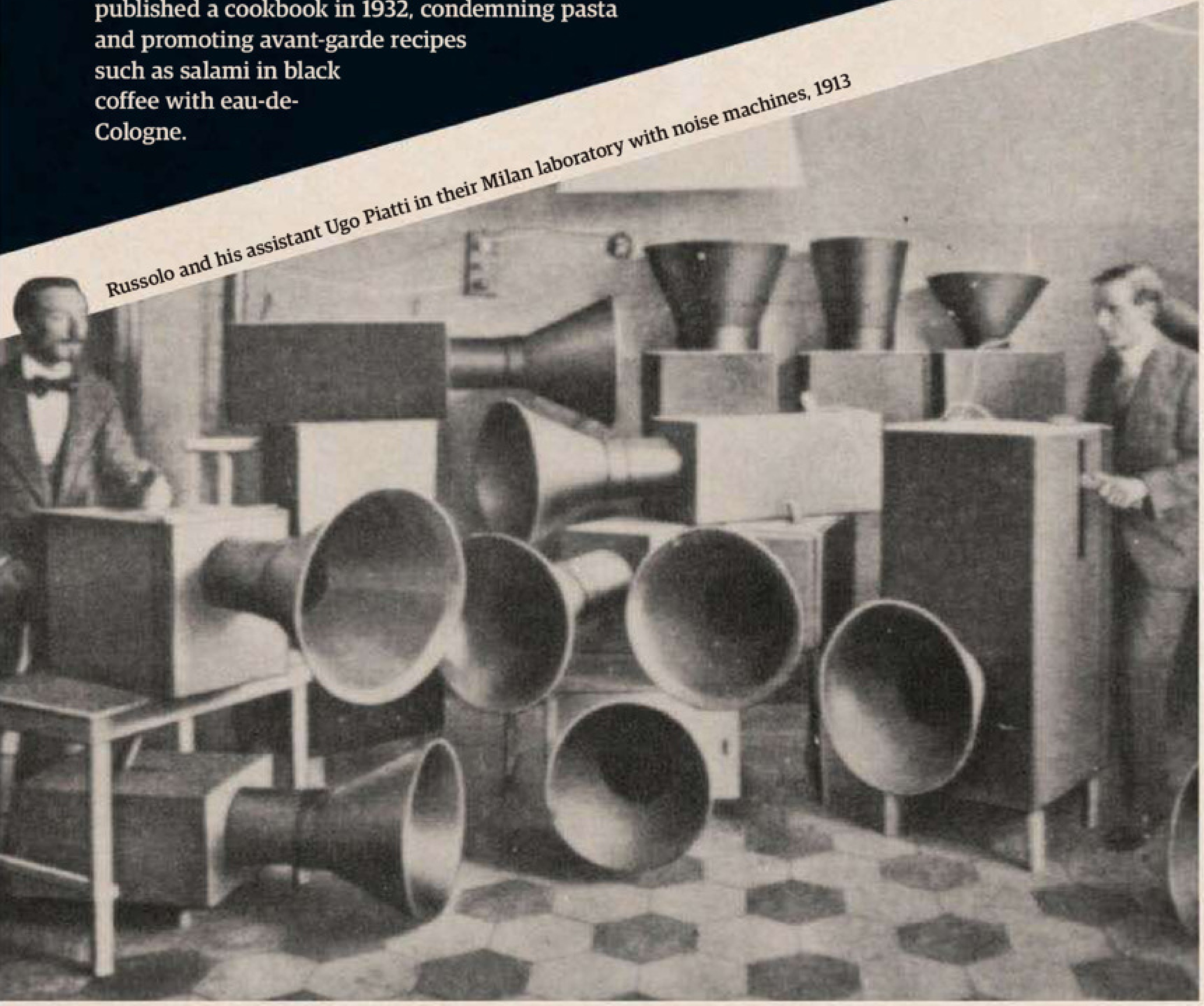
Extra! Extra! Le Figaro newspaper jumpstarts the Futurism movement

In October 1908, Marinetti was driving his new Fiat convertible when he was forced to swerve sharply in order to avoid passing cyclists. His car ended up flipping into a ditch, but he later claimed that it was this experience that gave him the inspiration to create 'Futurism' - a movement that would eschew the tired traditions of the past and embrace the new dynamism of modern mechanics and industry. His arresting manifesto, *The Founding And Manifesto Of Futurism* was published in the Parisian newspaper *Le Figaro*, which was read all over the world.

This was the springboard that Marinetti needed and the movement soon began to gather momentum. His passionate writings drew the support of Milanese artists such as Carlo Carrà, Luigi Russolo and Umberto Boccioni. They wanted to adopt the exciting new Futurism into their visual art; Russolo was also a composer who introduced Futurist ideas into his compositions. From Milan, the movement expanded through Turin and Naples.

The artists and sculptors that endorsed Marinetti's views published their own manifesto in 1910. The publication of documents and manifestos featured heavily throughout this period and many more were to follow. Marinetti even published a cookbook in 1932, condemning pasta and promoting avant-garde recipes such as salami in black coffee with eau-de-Cologne.

Marinetti's magazine *Poesia* was launched in 1905, which he also used to communicate Futurist opinions



Russolo and his assistant Ugo Piatti in their Milan laboratory with noise machines, 1913

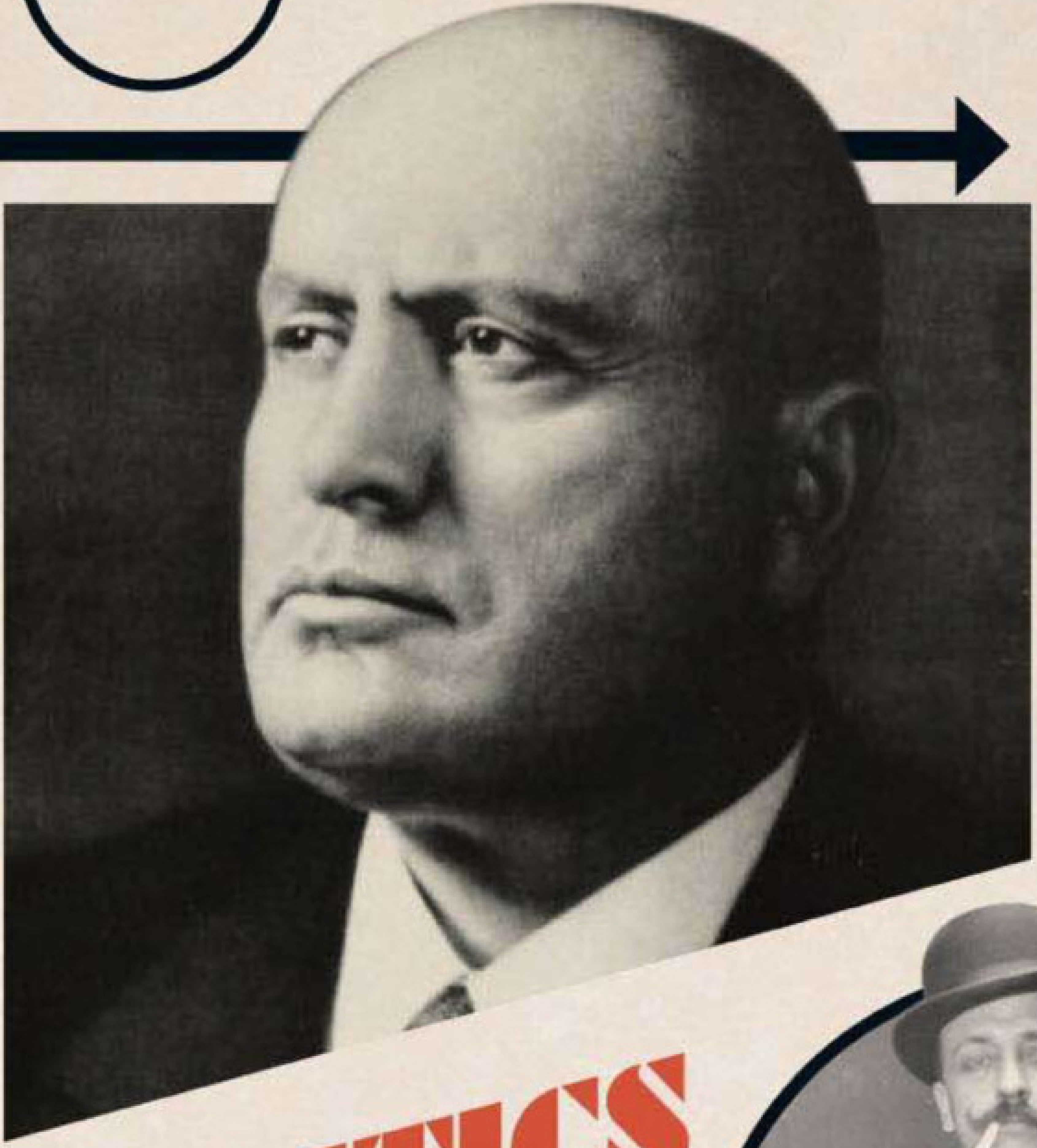
ART

The Futurists explored every avenue as they strived to innovative and progress

The Futurist painters' inspiration stemmed from neo-impressionism, divisionism, cubism and even abstract art where forms are broken down to show the blur of high-speed movement. But painting was not the only way followers expressed themselves. Manifestos were published about everything from poetry to radio, theatre to sculpture, literature, dance and the role of women.

Marinetti also introduced a style of free-form visual poetry called 'words in freedom'. This poetry was read as literature but viewed as art; the artists freed words from all context and syntax and used symbols and onomatopoeia to form complex pieces, such as Marinetti's 1912 poem entitled *Zang Tumb Tuuumb*.

Although the Italian eccentric was often the instigator of these increasing examples of the avant-garde, many artists produced their own interpretations. Composer Luigi Russolo published a manifesto in 1913 called *The Art Of Noises*, alongside which he developed 'noise machines' to create Futurist soundscape. Russolo emulated the racket of modern industry with whistles, rumbles, roars, hisses, screeches and crackles to make a perplexingly harsh symphony.



POLITICS

Futurism wasn't just about transforming art; it was an all-encompassing mindset with strong political views

Filippo Tommaso Emilio Marinetti

1876-1944

Educated in Egypt, France, Italy and Switzerland, Marinetti was a poet and writer who worked for a magazine before founding Futurism. He married fellow founder of the Futurist movement Benedetta Cappa in 1923.

Along with their contributions to the art world, Futurists were very politically minded, fuelled by a desire to elevate Italy's world ranking with innovation and industry. Futurists were intense nationalists and Marinetti's seminal manifesto made no bones about his desire to tear down and destroy Italy's foundation of culture and academia that he and his peers deemed rotten, in order to embrace the new mechanical age.

In January 1910, the first Futurist 'serate' was held - these were performance evenings where followers would meet to proclaim their cultural and political plans. These evenings happened all across Italy and were a heated and raucous affair, designed to fray tempers and entice the violence and riots that Futurism deemed as necessary for progress, to upend well-established order. These evenings usually ended with intervention from the authorities.

With the publication of the *Manifesto Of The Italian Futurist Party* in 1918, Marinetti outlined his political views further and then the very next year he joined Mussolini's fascist movement. Marinetti admired Mussolini for his shared view on violence and national pride and declared that fascism was a natural extension of Futurism.

Hitler and Mussolini in Munich, 1940, after Germany defeated French forces. This victory prompted Marinetti to declare Hitler a Futurist

WAR

Described by Marinetti himself as "the only hygiene of the world", war was to have a significant impact on the Futurist mission

War was at the very heart of the Futurist manifesto - "beautiful ideas worth dying for." When Italy declared neutrality in World War I in 1914, the Futurists reacted by joining interventionist demonstrations and even publishing passive-aggressive manifestos about their distaste of 'neutrality'. *The Antineutral Suit* by Giocomo Balla implored followers to discard any clothing that encouraged indecision, and to wear bright colours that promoted dynamic behaviour and aggressive movement. When Italy entered the war in 1915, Futurists Marinetti, Boccioni, Sant'Elia, Russolo and others joined up and left shortly afterward for the front. Marinetti published a manifesto in 1915 that glorified the war to attempt to smooth over public resistance to the cost of the fighting. However, this war that was so revered by the Futurists would also signify a great change in the movement.

Umberto Boccioni, one of the movement's greatest theorists and artists, was killed in 1916, as was Sant'Elia, who is thought to have authored a manifesto on architecture. When the war ended, there was a distinct shift in the support for Futurism, as there was much debate over how the war ought to be portrayed through art. A 'return to order' was beginning to emerge, where the more traditional artwork and culture was returning to favour. However, Marinetti persevered.

L-R: Marinetti, Boccioni, Sant'Elia and Sironi in 1915, soldiers in the Italian army in WWI

POST-WAR FUTURISM

Italy was in despair, but Marinetti strove on in both artistic output and political agenda

The hubbub and hype that Futurism had created in the pre-war years had waned after the end of World War I in 1918. Boccioni was dead, and the 'return to order' was now a favoured part of Italian cultural society after the horrors of war. There are few who would argue that the Futurism movement in its entirety only lasted until the beginning of the Great War. But although some of the early contributors were now following different paths, Marinetti was still exploring new ways to achieve his vision.

After publishing his political manifesto and his adoption into the Italian Fascist Party in 1919, Marinetti did an about-turn and shunned the Fascists in 1920 on the grounds of the party's new conservative direction. He walked out of the Fascist Party congress and withdrew from politics for a few years. In the interim, he published yet another manifesto in 1921, *Tactilism*. He was probing the concept of achieving tactile harmony by touching different textures to trigger specific senses. Futurism as a movement was also gaining new members and exploring 'arte meccanica' or 'machine aesthetics'. This celebration of mechanical form was outlined by artists Ivo Pannaggi and Vinicio Paladini in the 1922 *Manifesto Of Futurist Mechanical Art*.

While the Futurists immortalised Italian industry on canvas, the country itself was still in despair. The war had claimed hundreds of thousands of casualties and the nation was left in need of a strong leader. It was these facets that helped Benito Mussolini rise to power, and the Fascist leader was named prime minister of Italy in October 1922. Keen to curry favour, Marinetti and his Futurists published an open letter congratulating Mussolini's coming to power and pledged his support. They also asked Mussolini for state support for Futurism, but the dictator was not agreeable to siding with just one movement.

Towards the end of the 1920s and beginning of the 1930s, Futurism had moved on and a subgenre of fascist-inspired propaganda was now taking hold, known as 'aeropittura'. This genre of art was based around aerial photography and perspective, as well as the classic Futurist worship of machines – in this case, the aeroplane was the star. A newcomer to the Futurism scene, artist and ex-pilot Tullio Crali demonstrates this movement exceptionally with his 1939 painting *Before The Parachute Opens*. The image shows a soldier in mid-air having jumped from a plane, with the classic blurring of forms to show speed and dynamic movement alongside a dizzying perspective.

Much like the initial introduction of Futurism, Marinetti continued to simultaneously innovate and strive to eliminate what he deemed to be antiquated cultural practices. Photography became the last focus of the movement, as Marinetti and his artists worked to "eliminate the barriers between art and life". With the advent of technology, they layered multiple negatives and created bizarre and detailed photomontages.

Outside Italy, however, Futurism was coming under attack, most notably by Hitler. As relations

Umberto Boccioni

1882-1916

Hailed as the main theorist of the Futurist movement, Boccioni was born in Reggio Calabria and spent many years travelling around Europe as a young painter. He settled in Milan in 1908, where he then joined the Futurist movement and published the painter's manifesto. Boccioni died fighting for the Italian army in WWI in 1916.

MARINETTI'S MIGHTY MUSINGS

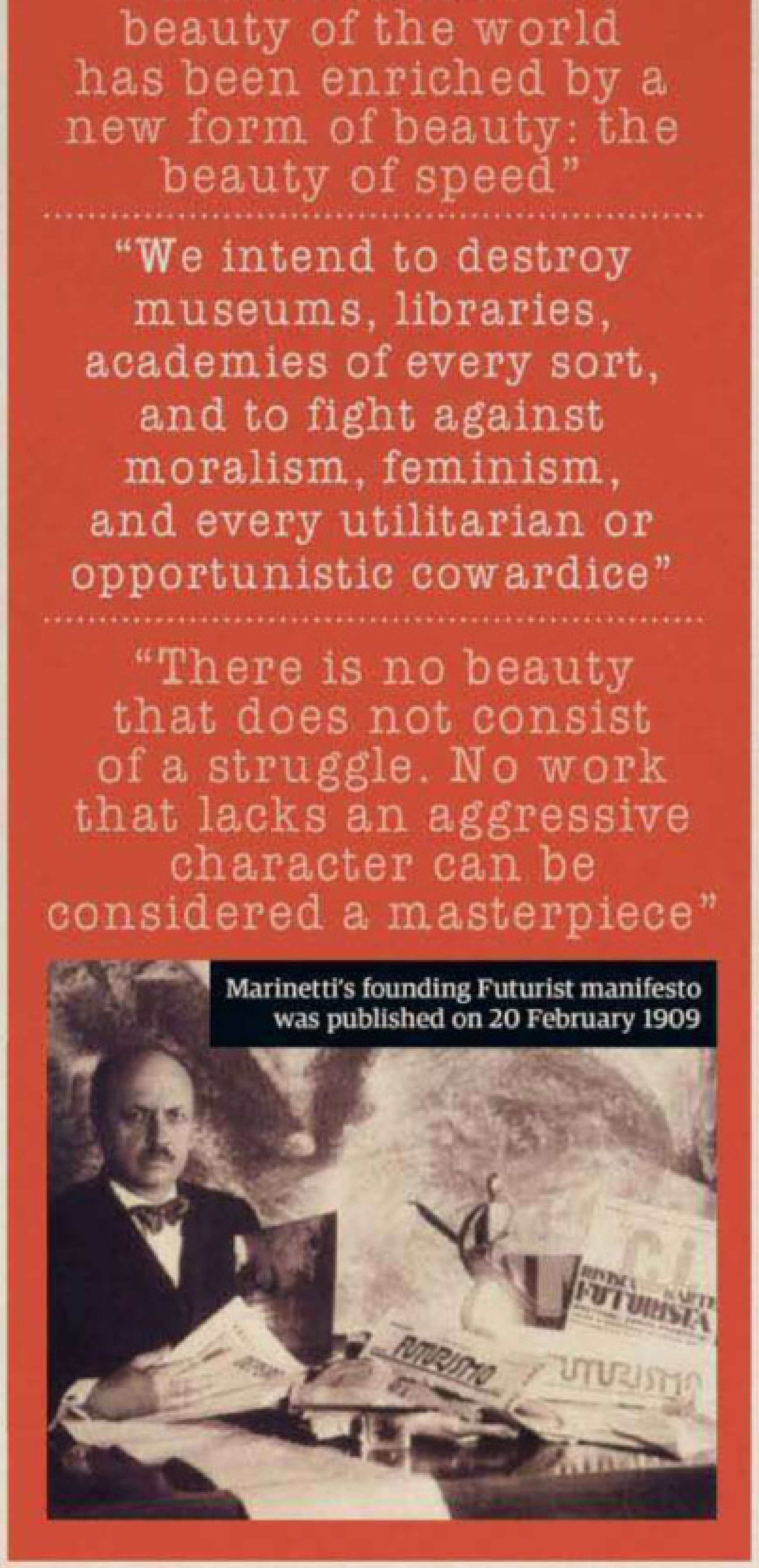
The Futurist manifesto is passionate, aggressive and inherently strong about the values that Marinetti wanted to implement in his work

"We intend to sing to the love of danger, the habit of energy and fearlessness"

"We affirm that the beauty of the world has been enriched by a new form of beauty: the beauty of speed"

"We intend to destroy museums, libraries, academies of every sort, and to fight against moralism, feminism, and every utilitarian or opportunistic cowardice"

"There is no beauty that does not consist of a struggle. No work that lacks an aggressive character can be considered a masterpiece"



Marinetti's founding Futurist manifesto was published on 20 February 1909

THE RISE AND FALL OF FUTURISM

FEBRUARY 1909

MANIFESTO

Marinetti publishes *Futurist Manifesto*, calling for an end to traditionalism.

1910-14

MANY FUTURIST MANIFESTOS

Manifestos are published for disciplines from technical art to 'antineutral' suits.

MAY 1915

ITALY ENTERS WWI

Italy sides with the Allies and the Futurists leave for the front within months.

AUGUST 1916

BOCCIONI DIES

Following a cavalry training exercise, Umberto Boccioni dies age 33.

MARCH 1919

FUTURISTS JOIN FASCISTS

Marinetti and others join the Fascist party, but later leave in 1920.

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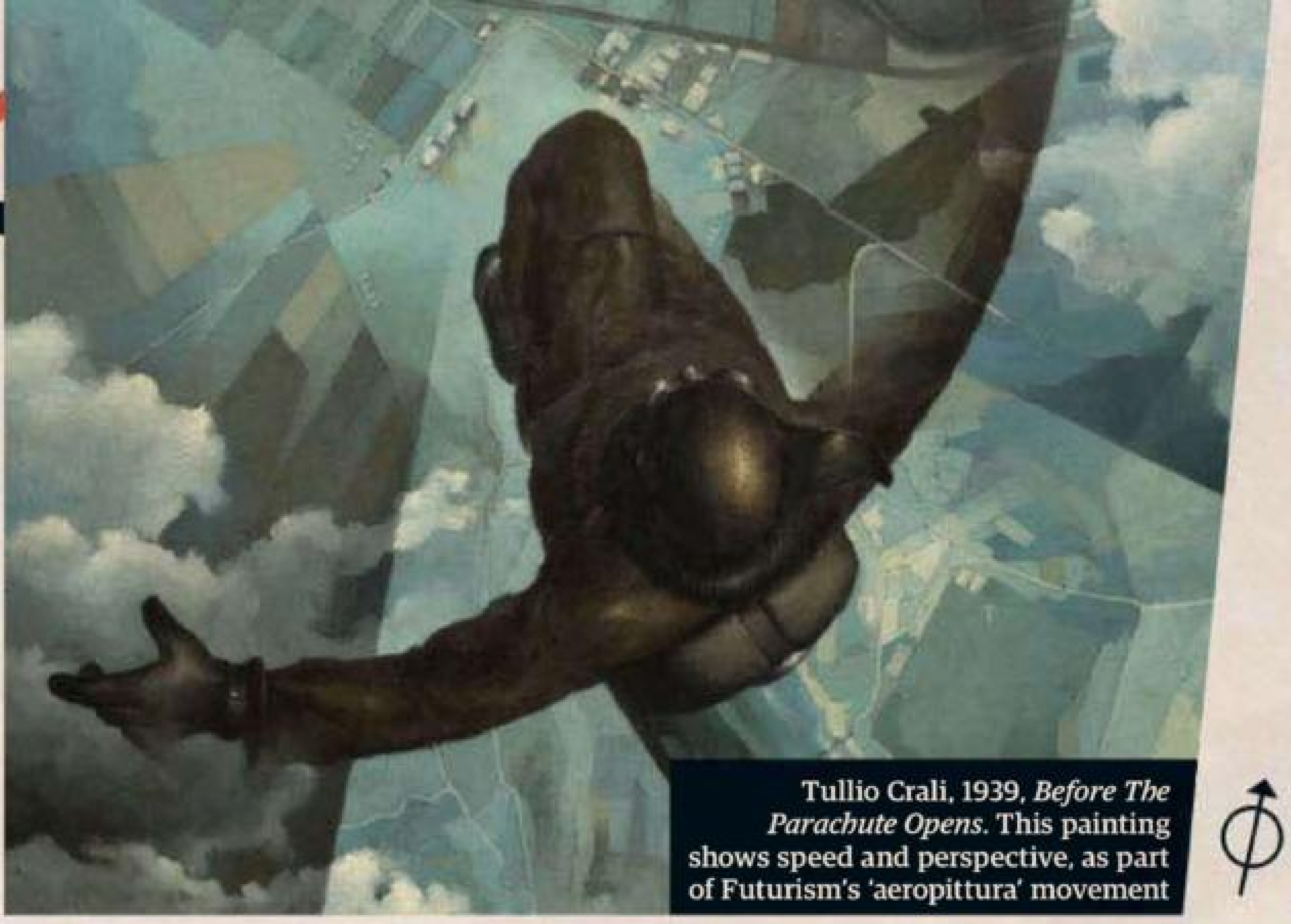

Tullio Crali, 1939, *Before The Parachute Opens*. This painting shows speed and perspective, as part of Futurism's 'aeropittura' movement

> After the defeat of France, Marinetti set his hatred of Hitler's cultural policy aside and proclaimed he was in fact the embodiment of Futurist principles

Marinetti's national pride saw him volunteer for active service in both world wars and the Second Italo-Abyssinian War

grew between the two nations, the German dictator slammed the movement as "only the artifactitious stammering of men to whom God has denied the grace of truly artistic talent." However, after the defeat of France, Marinetti set his hatred of Hitler's cultural policy aside and proclaimed he was in fact the embodiment of Futurist principles that glorify war as "the world's only hygiene" and had developed it to its "logical extent in his integral victories."

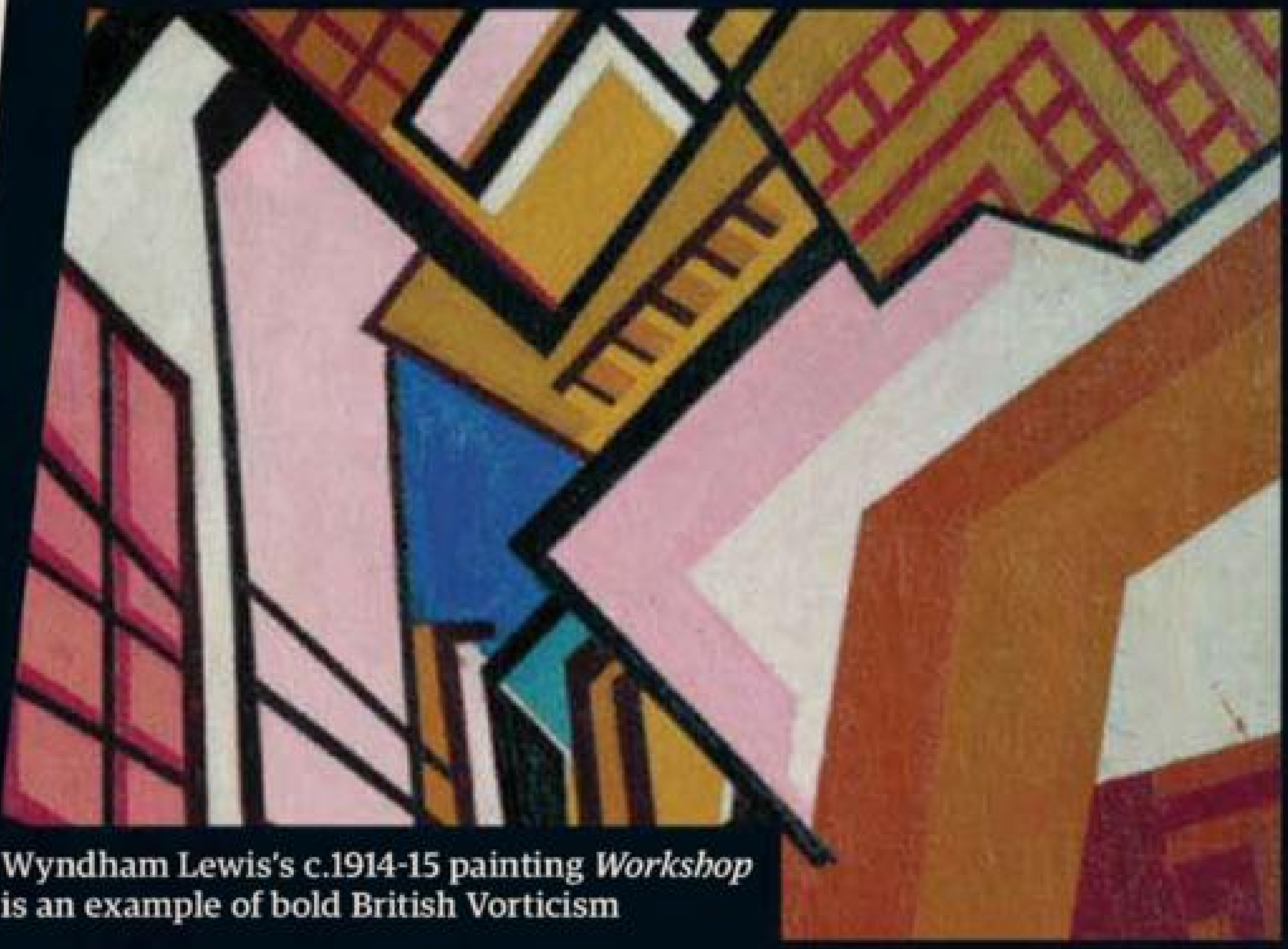
Spurred on by the progress of war, Marinetti volunteered to fight and served on the Eastern Front in 1942. Even after Mussolini was incarcerated in 1943, Marinetti remained loyal to his cause and followed the dictator to Salo after he was freed. Despite his efforts, the Futurist movement is generally accepted to have ended with the life of Filippo Marinetti himself, who died a year later of a heart attack in Lake Como. While there are still offshoots of Futurism today, Marinetti was the driving force behind the movement that pushed the boundaries of Italian culture to its very limit.

PARALLEL MOVEMENTS

Although rooted in Italy, the movement sent ripples throughout artistic circles in Europe

Britain

British movement known as Vorticism was pioneered by artist Wyndham Lewis the first issue of his magazine Blast in 1914. Vorticism was inspired by cubism related art to industrialisation and machinery. Jarring, passionate, aggressive prose and artwork with primitive block colours and stark angles was a total contradiction to the sentimental decorativeness of Victorian culture. In these respects it was very similar to Italy's Futurist group, but there were differences, and Lewis was always very scathing about Marinetti and his followers.


Wyndham Lewis's c.1914-15 painting *Workshop* is an example of bold British Vorticism

Russia

The Russian movement known as Cubo Futurism was an offshoot of European Futurism, with artwork using fragmented forms with the representation of movement. The term was first used to describe poetry, but has now also come to describe a distinct Russian style of visual art. One of the typical factors in this movement is the use of other materials pasted onto canvas.

Natalia Goncharova's *Cyclist* (1913) was influenced by Russian Futurism

OCTOBER 1922

MUSSOLINI AS PRIME MINISTER

Marinetti supports Mussolini and requests state support for Futurism.

OCTOBER 1926

FASCIST ART

Mussolini declares need for 'fascist art' but doesn't recognise Futurism.

JANUARY 1939

MARINETTI DEFENDS FUTURISM

Denounced by Hitler, Marinetti defends modern art against anti-Semitic allegations.

JUNE 1940

ITALY ENTERS WWII

Marinetti praises Hitler for being the embodiment of Futurist principles.

DECEMBER 1944

MARINETTI DIES

Marinetti dies of a heart attack at Lake Como, taking Futurism with him.

© Alamy, Getty Images, TopFoto

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What if...

The USA had invaded Canada?

If war broke out with Britain, the United States had a strategy to bring the country to its knees

Written by Blaine L Pardoe

Originally titled, 'Assumption - war has broken out with Great Britain', the 1904/05 plan by the United States to invade Canada was the first of its plans for future wars to be drafted. While crude by modern war-planning scenarios, it was audacious in its strategic thinking. Rather than fight Britain on its terms, the United States would strike where the nation was easiest to injure - Canada. Most likely this plan was devised after the tensions of the Venezuela Crisis of 1903-04, which came close to encroaching on the USA's sole foreign policy, the Monroe Doctrine.

The plan was aimed at crippling Britain economically. If Canada were taken from Britain, it would cut off nearly a third of the island's wheat and over 75 per cent of the nickel. Better yet, with a massive, mostly undefended border, Canada was ripe pickings for US war planners. The only downside to attacking the USA's neighbour to the north was its vast size - it was akin to sending armies into Russia.

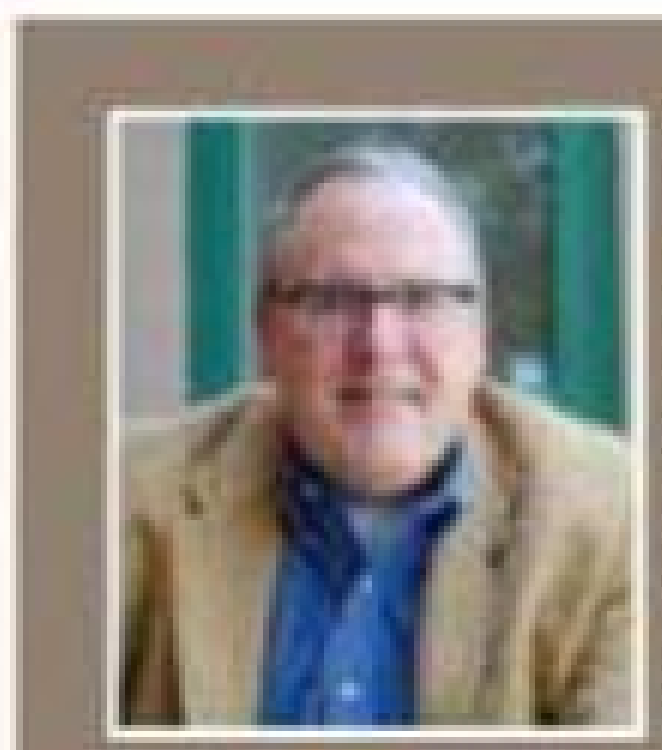
Thus the US plan for attacking Canada was not an all-out invasion but rather a direct attack across the Saint Lawrence Seaway to seize Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and the Welland Canal. Once secured, US cavalry forces (mostly southern cavalry units still bearing names tied to the US Civil War) would be unleashed to strike northward to Toronto, cutting off rail service and raiding at will.

Canada could do little to stop an invasion as the bridges across the Saint Lawrence were seized. With only roughly 12,000 militia and officers spread out across the vast territory, they would be fighting with limited ammunition, and only two batteries of artillery were posted in the Niagara area where the fighting would be the heaviest. The Canadians had a total of 12 machine guns in their entire defensive force, so defending Canada relied on arming private citizen gun clubs with Lee Rifles and giving them almost no formal training. With the US striking quickly, the closest professional military help for the Canadians was five hours away by rail (The Royal Canadian Dragoons). By the time they arrived, the invasion force would have taken its objectives - cutting off the Saint Lawrence Seaway, Fort Erie, and forming a compact defensive line around Niagara.

The US would be deploying a larger number of troops, a full division of troops along with an additional division's worth of artillery and cavalry in reserve. US machine guns would be concentrated in the drive of seizing the canal and securing Toronto. The US army would have had little opposition in securing Ontario as a whole, cutting Canada in half.

Britain would respond, the US knew that. But by the time any British relief forces would have arrived, the US would be deeply entrenched and reinforced. The clashes by British troops to attempt to retake Toronto would have taken on a Great War effect, with troops rushing massed artillery and machine guns. With the USA massing troops in Maine, threatening to cut off Halifax and resupply, Great Britain would have to face losing a significant and strategic portion of Canada.

Ontario would have become the 46th American state, while Britain would be forced to heavily garrison Quebec and the rest of Canada as an uneasy peace settled in.



BLAINE L PARDOE

Blaine Pardoe is a New York Times bestselling author of military history, true crime, and a number of other genres. Two of his books deal with speculative history - *The Fires Of October* on the Cuban Missile Crisis and *Never Wars - The US Plans To Invade The World*. It is from *Never Wars* that he draws on a previously unpublished US plan to invade Canada.

How would it be different?

- **Protecting the Canadian Front**
  Significant British garrison forces arrive and reinforce Quebec to deter further American adventurism. Tensions remain high between Britain and the US as both sides build forts. **1905-14**
- **British Expeditionary Force formed**
  The outbreak of the Great War leaves Britain with a significantly smaller BEF force because of troops tied down in Canada. **Summer 1914**
- **US refuses to declare neutrality**
  With a British army poised in the north, the US refuses to sell munitions to Britain but agrees to supply France and Germany with arms. **4 August 1914**
- **The rout of Mons**
  The BEF is driven back in a stunning defeat, causing a collapse of the French lines. The British and French fall back, giving Germany significant territorial gains. **23 August 1914**
- **The battles of the coast**
  The German armies swing north and secure several strategic ports. Dunkirk and Calais fall, as does La Harve. The Channel becomes a contested passage. **10 September 1914**

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Canada's militia would have been no match for the professional US army

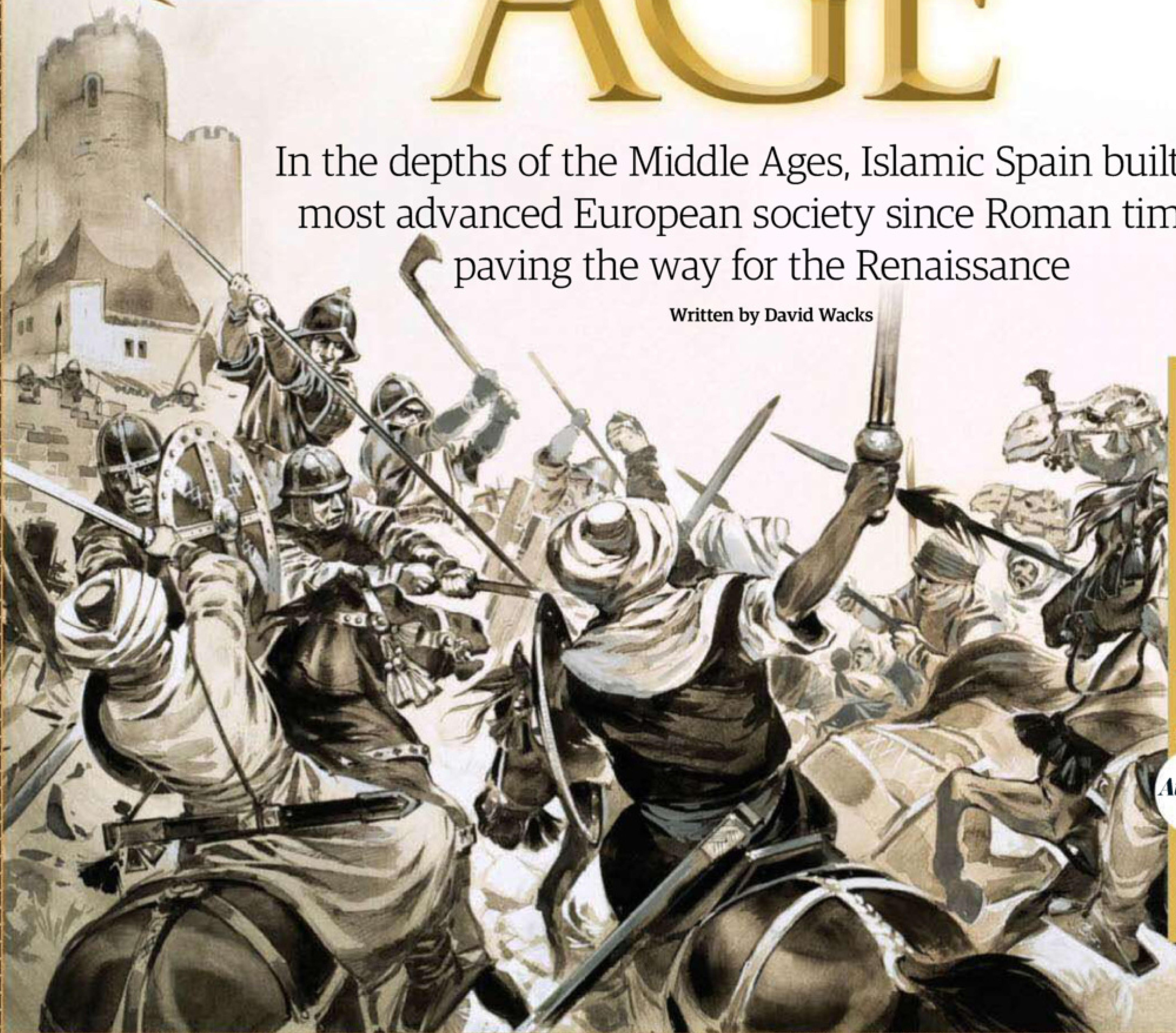
- **The battles for Paris begin**
  A defensive arc around Paris is formed when Verdun falls. The British and French hold the line, which quickly devolves into a bloody war of attrition.
  24 November 1914
- **US seizes RMS Lusitania**
  RMS Lusitania is laden with illegally purchased munitions, and the US seizes the vessel in New York harbour. Tensions between Britain and the US escalate. **10 December 1914**
- **Britain declares unrestricted naval warfare**
  The US selling and shipping of munitions to Germany forces Britain to call for unrestricted naval warfare.
  4 February 1915
- **US backs Quebec Independence Movement**
  In retaliation, the US arms Quebec nationalists. Uprisings take place and the British garrison is soon under siege.
  March 1915 – 1916
- **The Great War ends**
  France sues for peace as Britain pulls the BEF out of Europe to cope with the uprisings. The Treaty of Versailles places the blame for the war squarely with Britain and France. **10 March 1916**

© Kevin McGivern

ISLAM'S GOLDEN AGE

In the depths of the Middle Ages, Islamic Spain built the most advanced European society since Roman times, paving the way for the Renaissance

Written by David Wacks



DAVID WACKS

Author Bio

David Wacks is professor of Spanish at the University of Oregon. His area of specialisation is the confluence of Islam, Judaism and Christianity in the Iberian Middle Ages. He blogs on his current research at davidwacks.uoregon.edu.

After the decline of Roman rule in Hispania during the late 400s, Visigothic tribes crossed the Pyrenees and established themselves in the Iberian Peninsula, setting up their capital at Toledo. They soon assimilated to Roman culture, eventually becoming Latin speakers who practiced Arianism, a form of Christianity. By the late 600s, Visigothic Hispania was in disarray, torn by political infighting. The Umayyad Caliphate seized their opportunity, and in 710, sent a small expeditionary force across the Straits of Gibraltar from North Africa.

The following year they returned with a conquering army composed mostly of recently Islamised Amazigh (Berber) soldiers, and in short order brought all of the Iberian Peninsula, and parts of what is today southern France, into Dar al-Islam, the House of Islam. While Christians and Jews, as Dhimmi or protected religious minorities, enjoyed freedom of religion under Islam, many Iberian Christians converted to Islam in the generations following the Islamisation of Visigothic Iberia.

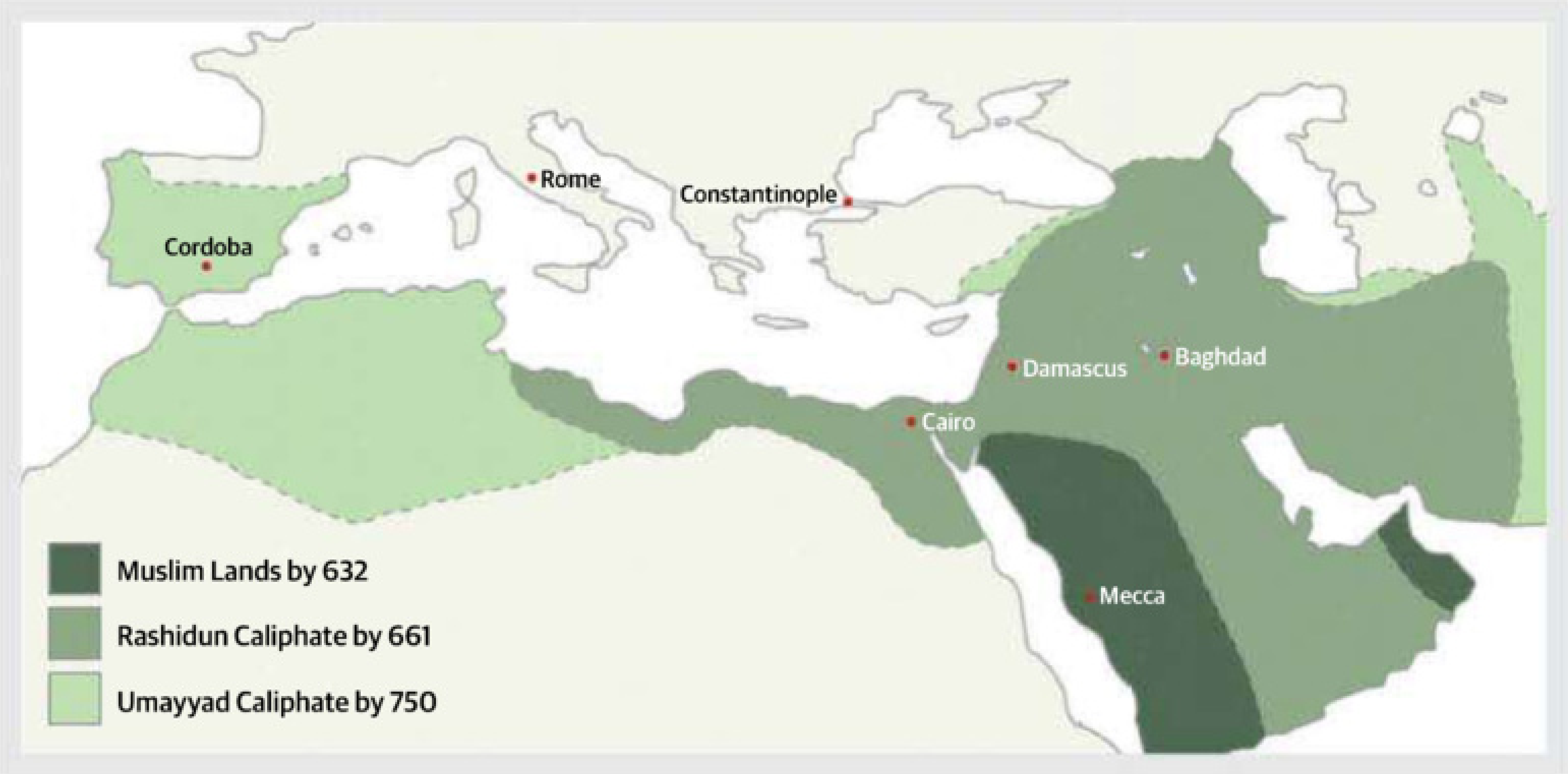
> "The Medieval Muslim territory of al-Andalus enjoyed the best of Europe, Africa and the Islamic East"

By the 10th century, the Medieval Muslim territory of al-Andalus enjoyed the best of Europe, Africa and the Islamic East. Islamic scholars engaged Greek science and learning long lost to Western Latin Christendom, and brought to al-Andalus the resources of a vast empire. Al-Andalus's position between Europe, the Mediterranean and the African Atlantic made it a powerful centre of trade, and once it was incorporated into the Umayyad Empire, Andalusis were able to take full advantage of the massive trade networks available to merchants working in the Islamic world.

However, this new province of the caliphate was home to a dizzyingly diverse mix of indigenous ethnic and religious groups, some of which intersected: Visigoths and Ibero-Romance, members of numerous Amazigh and Arab clans, Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Ethnic divisions often lead to political instability, and the Muslim community alone was composed of people of a variety of ethnic origins: Amazigh, Arab, Gothic, Slavic, Byzantine, and Ibero-Roman.

The Amazigh majority, who were the rank and file of the armies that conquered (or in Arabic 'opened') al-Andalus, did not share equally in the spoils of war and were subjugated by the Arab elites. In 740, the Amazigh majority revolted against the Umayyad leadership, sending the province into disorder. The Umayyad caliph sent forces from Syria, Jordan, Palestine, the Arabian Peninsula and Egypt to put down the revolt. These groups were able to subjugate the Andalusi Berbers and establish control over al-Andalus, but were not quick to relinquish power to the Umayyad governor. The ragged remains of Christian leadership on the Peninsula, having lived in the mountainous northern region of Asturias, took advantage of this infighting between the Arab and Berber factions to expand their territories into what would become the Kingdom of Asturias, a Christian foothold in al-Andalus that would expand southward.

The fall of the Umayyad Caliphate to the ascendant Abbasid dynasty in 750 signalled an opportunity for Andalusi independence. The survivor of the Abbasid massacre of the Umayyad royal family, Prince Abd al-Rahman I, journeyed westward and eventually organised an independent emirate in al-Andalus that defied Abbasid rule and that might one day rival the splendour of the established cultural capitals of Islam, Damascus and Baghdad. In 756, Abd al-Rahman declared himself emir of al-Andalus, leader of the first independent Islamic state in Europe.



A short history of al-Andalus

THE DEPENDENT EMIRATE (711-756)

After a rapid conquest and settlement of the peninsula by Umayyad forces composed of Arab leadership and North African Amazigh (Berber) forces, the latter revolt and are put down by new reinforcements from the East. Amid Christian expansion in the north and infighting among Muslim factions, Abd al-Rahman I declares an independent al-Andalus in 756.

THE INDEPENDENT EMIRATE (756-929)

A succession of Andalusi Umayyad emirs maintain varying degrees of control over the peninsula, vying with Iberian Christians to the north and factionalism within al-Andalus.

THE CALIPHATE (929-1031)

Abd al-Rahman III declares an independent caliphate in al-Andalus with its capital in Cordova. Under his rule, Andalusi society achieves a level of learning and sophistication unprecedented in Europe, laying the foundations for the Renaissance.

THE TAIFA KINGS (1031-1212)

Caliphal rule gives way to a collection of Andalusi Taifa ('faction') kingdoms that vie with one another for military and cultural supremacy. Increasing pressure from the Christian north leads to successive invasions of al-Andalus by North African Almoravid and Almohad dynasties.

DECLINE (1212-1492)

During the 13th century, Andalusi fortunes enter a period of decline as Christian kingdoms gain the upper hand. Christians conquer Cordova in 1236 and Seville in 1248, and Granada is reduced to a client state of Castile, finally falling to Catholic monarchs Isabella and Ferdinand in 1492.

Ferdinand and Isabella sign a truce with Granada in 1491. A year later the emirate is annexed

LIFE IN AL-ANDALUS

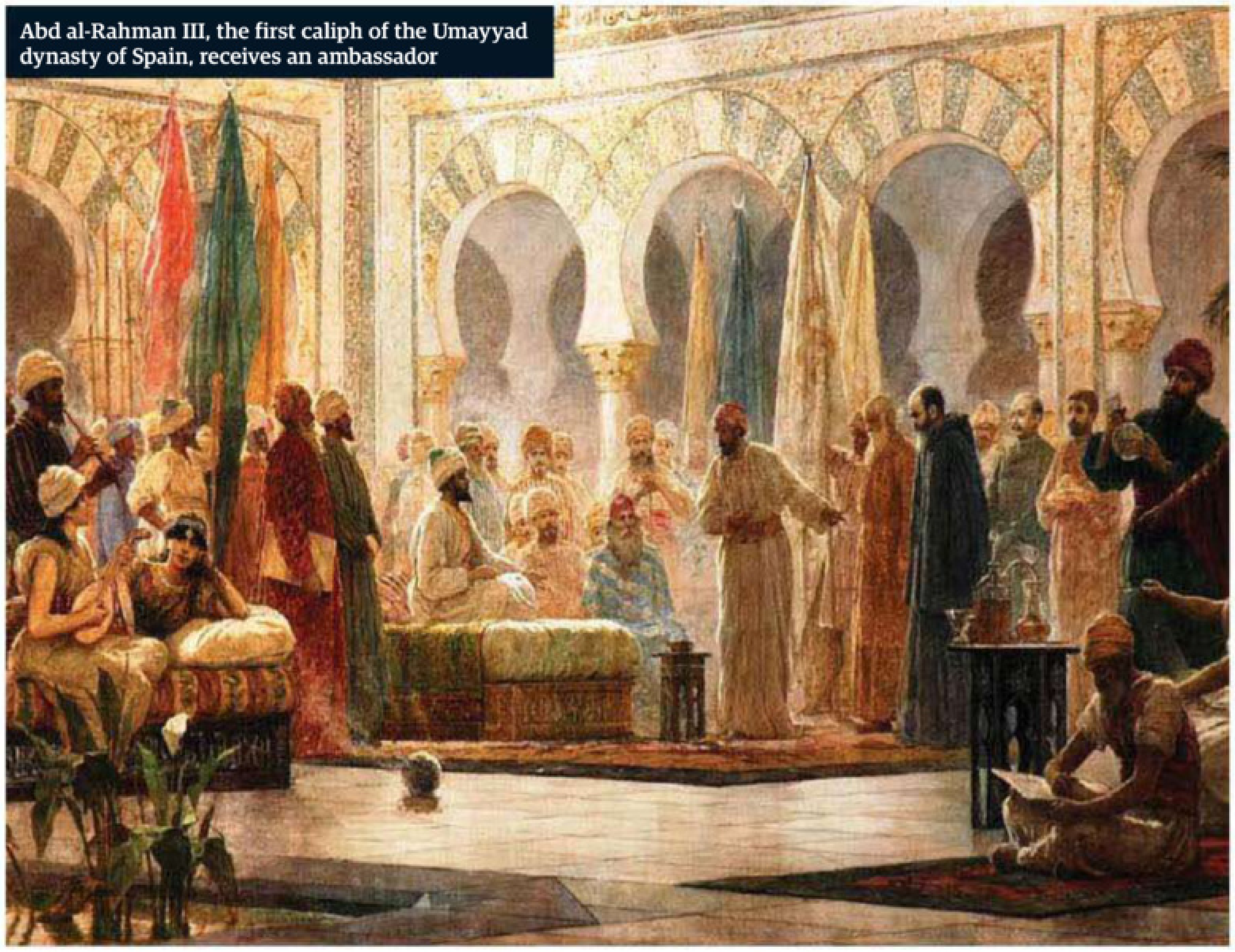
A strong and just caliph ushers in a golden age of science, art, and music

Abd al-Rahman III's declaration of Andalusi independence and strong leadership created the conditions for an era of unprecedented European cultural florescence. The rich natural resources of al-Andalus, its advantageous position between Europe, Africa and the Mediterranean, a strong government and just governance of its religious minorities set the stage for a golden era of cultural and artistic achievement. To this day it symbolises luxury to the entire Arab world, and that laid the foundations of the Renaissance for the West.

The quality of life in al-Andalus far surpassed that of the Christian territories of Europe. Islam had preserved and improved upon much Roman engineering and urban planning. Andalusi cities such as Valencia and Seville were hubs of luxury. The paper industry, centred in Játiva, revolutionised written communication by making books available when far more expensive parchment was still the norm to the north. Public baths ensured a level of hygiene and reduced transmission of contagions in urban areas. Women, especially among the elite, enjoyed greater freedoms, and some were educated and served as imams or religious leaders and poets.

The Islamic system of Dhimma, or protection of religious minorities, guaranteed the rights of subject Christians and Jews to practice their own religion, protection from pressure to convert to Islam, as well as a good measure of autonomy in governing their communities. However, Christian and Jewish Andalusis were second-class citizens who were subject to the jizya (poll tax), and whose material and political prospects were, on the balance, inferior to those of the average Muslim. These conditions granted Christians and Jews a great deal of autonomy and protection, while at the same time encouraging conversion to Islam, a process many Andalusi Christians and Jews underwent.

Even those unconverted Christians and Jews were thoroughly assimilated to Andalusi Arabic culture. Christian sources of the period complain of how Andalusi Christian youth mastered the works of Arab poets and even memorised the *Qur'an*, but were unable to compose a letter in Latin. Jewish Andalusis likewise mastered the Arabic language and composed works in both Arabic and Hebrew. This biculturalism came to revolutionise Hebrew literature; Jewish Andalusi poets wrote a new, hybrid style that combined Arabic poetics with Biblical Hebrew language. To this day, the works of such poets are considered the classics of Hebrew tradition and are taught in Israeli schools.



Abd al-Rahman III, the first caliph of the Umayyad dynasty of Spain, receives an ambassador

Ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity was the norm up and down the socio-economic ladder; Andalusi royals often intermarried with nobility from Iberian Christian kingdoms, so it was not uncommon for an Andalusi caliph to be the son of a Christian woman.

While the official language of the caliphate was Classical (literary) Arabic, Andalusis spoke and wrote in a number of languages. Educated Christians and Jews wrote and read Latin and Tamazigh (the Berber languages), and many Andalusis regardless of religion were bilingual in the local dialects of spoken Arabic and Romance. These conditions produced a series of important literary innovations that would have far-reaching impact throughout the Muslim and Jewish worlds.

Al-Andalus's position at the farthest western reaches of the Islamic world and relative distance from the centres of Fustat (Old Cairo), Damascus and Baghdad, as well as contact with Western Latin Christian culture made it a unique hub of cultural activity. A steady flow of scholars and books from the Islamic East provided the raw material for Andalusi experimentation and innovation.

A 13th century Arab depiction of a musician and revellers in Muslim Iberia

"Women, especially among the elite, enjoyed greater freedoms, and some were educated and served as imams or religious leaders and poets"

Philosophy

Writers such as Ibn Rushd (Averroes) and Maimonides reconciled the philosophy of Aristotle with the Islamic and Jewish traditions. Latin and Hebrew translations of their works soon found their way north to France and beyond, sparking major controversies in European universities and setting the stage for European Humanism.

Poetry

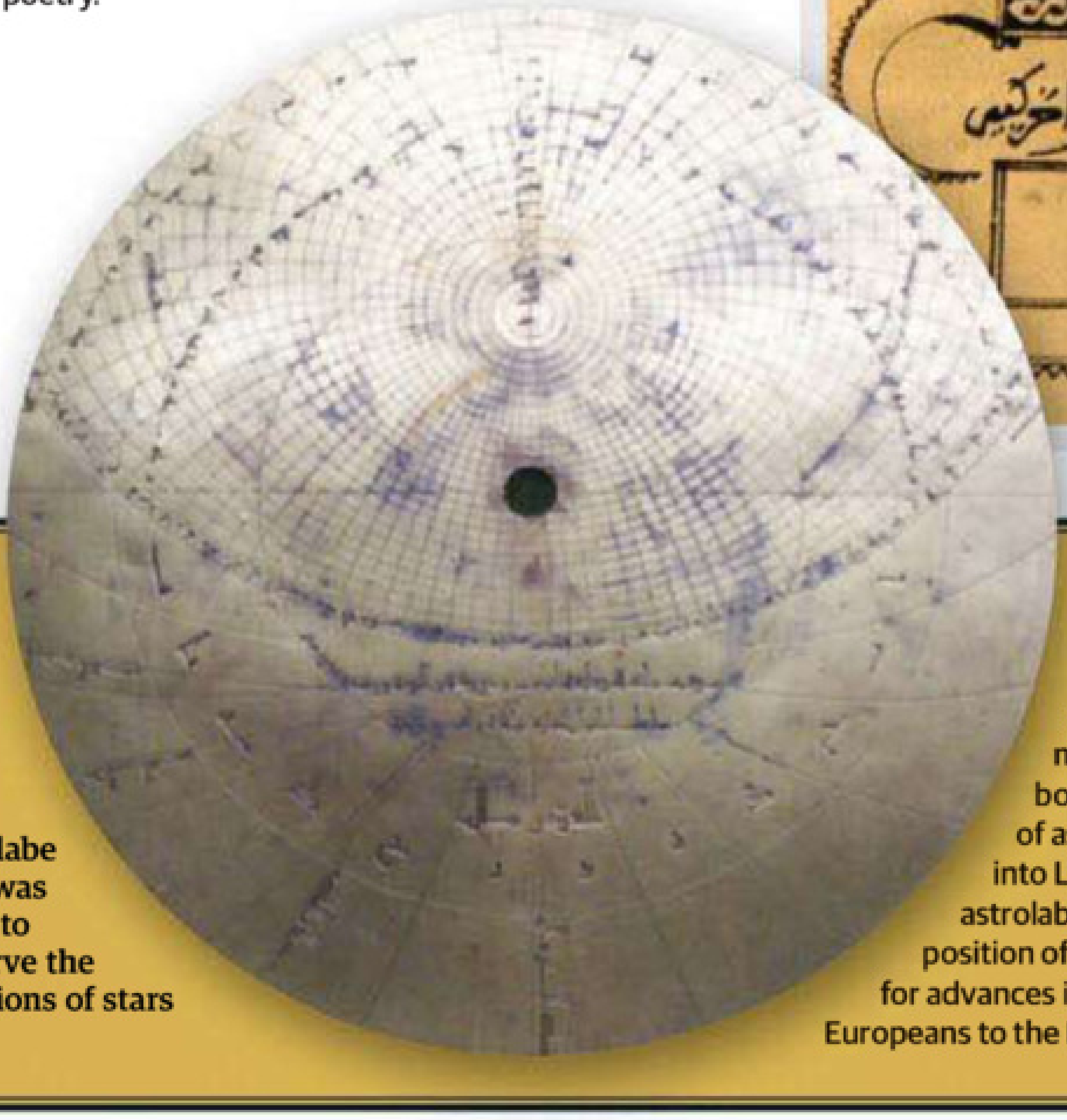
Andalusi poets such as Muqaddam of Cabra and Hasdai ibn Shaprut introduced elements of popular Iberian song and dance to Classical Arabic and Hebrew audiences. Their revolutionary innovations inspired successive generations of poets working in Arabic and Hebrew such as Ibn Shuhaid and Moses ibn Ezra whose works are to this day considered classics of Arabic and Hebrew poetry.

Art

The advances made in mathematics, calligraphy and the natural sciences all converge in Andalusi art. Islamic art tended away from the representation of human and even animal figures, and artists developed highly complex geometric, calligraphic and vegetal patterns that can still be seen in the traditional tile work that adorns houses in Seville, Cordova and Granada.

Medicine

As in other fields, Andalusi thinkers improved on the theories of their Eastern predecessors in the field of medicine. Ibn Zuhr of Seville wrote a treatise on cardiovascular disease. The Granadan Ibn al-Khatib developed a theory of contagion centuries before the ideas of Louis Pasteur revolutionised European medicine.


An astrolabe that was used to observe the positions of stars

Astronomy

Andalusi astronomers developed mathematical models to explain the movements of stars and other celestial bodies. The *Tables Of Toledo* – a collection of astronomical data – was translated into Latin, and its improvements on the astrolabe – instruments used to calculate the position of the Sun and stars – paved the way for advances in navigation that eventually brought Europeans to the New World.

A pyxis (storage vessel) made out of exquisitely carved ivory

Architecture

The Mosque of Cordova, founded by Abd al-Rahman I and completed by Almanzor, and the Alhambra fortress in Granada are today still considered some of the finest and best-preserved examples of Islamic architecture, and were among the most important monuments raised in Europe during this period.

Science

Andalusi intellectuals built on the scientific learning of the Islamic East, which in turn had preserved works of Classical Greek thinkers such as Galen, Aristotle and others. This Arabo-Hellenic scientific legacy would later inspire Renaissance-era thinkers in Western Europe. This learning brought advances in astronomy, navigation, architecture and medicine that gave Andalusis some of the highest quality of life in Europe.

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THE FALL OF AL-ANDALUS

When the tide turned in favour of Christian rule, the fortunes of Andalusi Muslims - and Jews - went into decline and signalled the end of an empire

While Alfonso VI was able to take Toledo, the historic Visigoth capital, as early as 1076, it was not until the early-13th century that the tide turned decisively in favour of the Christian Iberian kingdoms. Fernando III of Castile conquered the key cities of Cordova and Seville, while in Aragon, Jaume I took the Balearic Islands and Valencia. Soon all that was left of the great caliphate was the small client kingdom of Granada, politically and militarily dominated by Castile, forced to pay tribute and regularly harassed by Christian forces.

The end of Andalusi political power did not, however, bring an end to the cultural legacy of al-Andalus. While much of the Muslim elite left to live in Granada, North Africa or the East, the majority of Muslims and Jews remained, and were at first afforded similar protections enjoyed by minorities under Islamic regimes. Christian rulers were avid consumers and patrons of Andalusi art, architecture and science. Toledo continued to be a hub of Arabic learning for centuries.

Alfonso X of Castile commissioned numerous translations of Arabic works of science and philosophy, and established a school of Arabic studies in Seville. His comprehensive law code, the Siete Partidas, guaranteed religious freedom and protection to the kingdom's subject Muslims and Jews. Many Christian rulers employed Andalusi architects and artisans; their wardrobes and the interiors of their palaces were showcases of Andalusi textiles and art, and in Valencia, Arabic was widely spoken well into the 15th century.

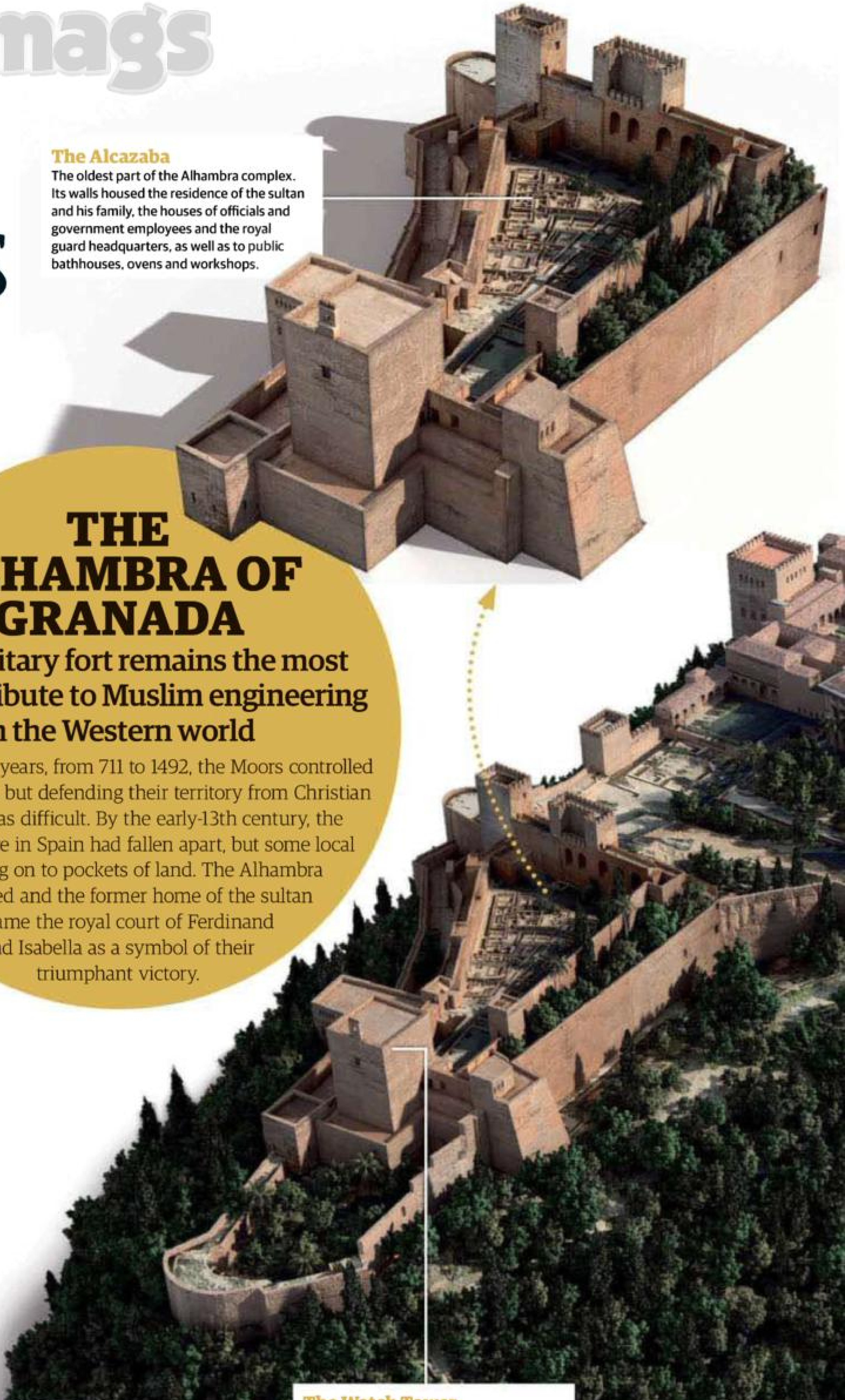
However, the religious tolerance of Christian Iberian rulers came to a dramatic end during the joint reign of Isabella I 'the Catholic' of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon. While Ferdinand's policies towards Aragonese and Valencian Muslims had been liberal, the pious and conservative Isabella's intolerance hardened under the influence of her religious adviser Francisco Jiménez de Cisneros.

Isabella and Ferdinand went on to establish the Spanish Inquisition in 1478 - a massive state-church agency devoted to the prosecution and brutal punishment of Christian heretics. They brought the full force of Castilian and Aragonese military power to bear on the tiny kingdom of Granada, and in 1492, marched into the Alhambra and took up residence. In the same year they decreed the expulsion or conversion of all Jews from their kingdoms. Islamic Spain ceased to exist.

THE ALHAMBRA OF GRANADA

This military fort remains the most famous tribute to Muslim engineering in the Western world

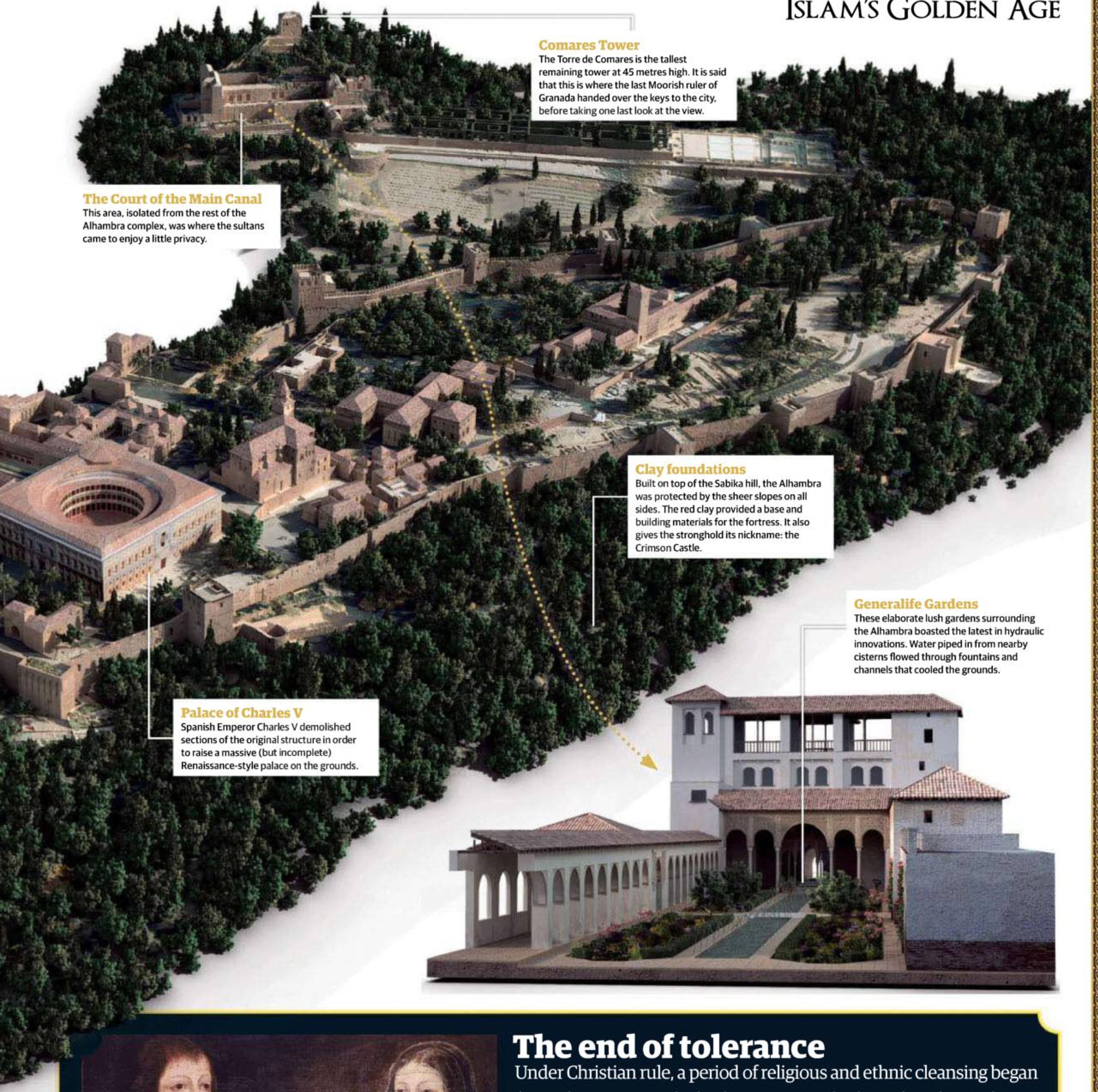
For almost 800 years, from 711 to 1492, the Moors controlled southern Spain, but defending their territory from Christian Crusaders was difficult. By the early-13th century, the Muslim empire in Spain had fallen apart, but some local lords clung on to pockets of land. The Alhambra was seized and the former home of the sultan became the royal court of Ferdinand and Isabella as a symbol of their triumphant victory.



The Alcazaba
The oldest part of the Alhambra complex. Its walls housed the residence of the sultan and his family, the houses of officials and government employees and the royal guard headquarters, as well as to public bathhouses, ovens and workshops.

The Watch Tower
This was the first tower of the Alhambra to be built, so it was designed to be strong enough to keep attackers at bay while the rest of the fortress was constructed.

The ironic phrase "There is no conqueror but god" appears throughout the complex



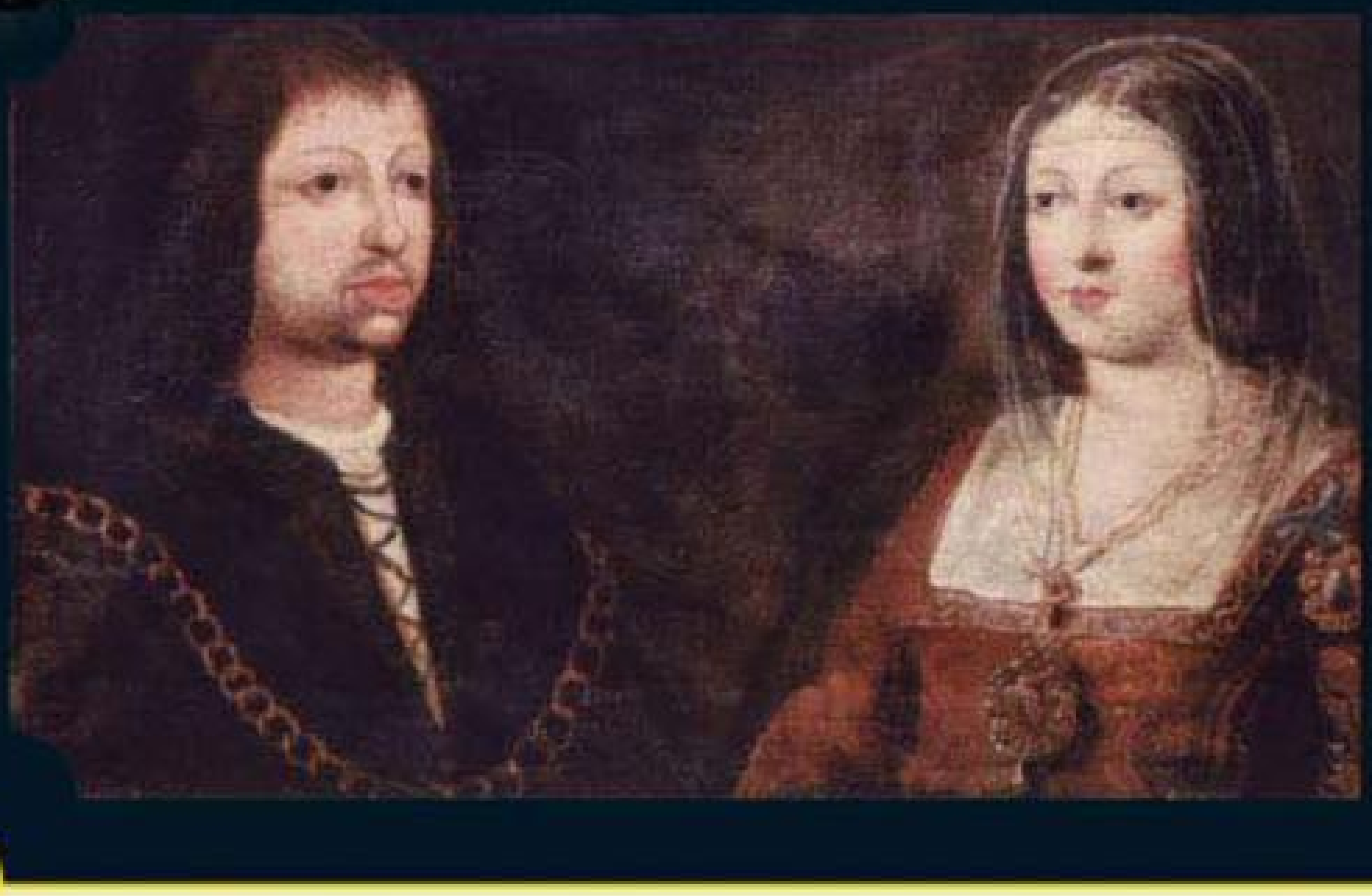
Comares Tower
The Torre de Comares is the tallest remaining tower at 45 metres high. It is said that this is where the last Moorish ruler of Granada handed over the keys to the city, before taking one last look at the view.

The Court of the Main Canal
This area, isolated from the rest of the Alhambra complex, was where the sultans came to enjoy a little privacy.

Clay foundations
Built on top of the Sabika hill, the Alhambra was protected by the sheer slopes on all sides. The red clay provided a base and building materials for the fortress. It also gives the stronghold its nickname: the Crimson Castle.

Generalife Gardens
These elaborate lush gardens surrounding the Alhambra boasted the latest in hydraulic innovations. Water piped in from nearby cisterns flowed through fountains and channels that cooled the grounds.

Palace of Charles V
Spanish Emperor Charles V demolished sections of the original structure in order to raise a massive (but incomplete) Renaissance-style palace on the grounds.



The end of tolerance

Under Christian rule, a period of religious and ethnic cleansing began

The Granada War came to an end as the sultan, Ferdinand and Isabella signed a treaty. It provided guarantees of religious freedom to Granadan Muslims, but this truce was short-lived. In response to armed insurrections in 1502, the Catholic monarchs ordered the conversion to Christianity of all subjects in the kingdom.

In 1525, the Muslims of the Crown of Aragon were converted, and in the space of a generation, Spain's considerable Muslim population had become Christians in name. However, only a few were able to receive a proper catechism, and so most became known as moriscos. Many moriscos continued to observe Islam and practice their culture, despite bans on speaking or writing Arabic, as well on traditional Andalusi customs.

This campaign of cultural cleansing led to widespread unrest that culminated in the bloody Alpujarras uprising. Morisco fortunes continued to decline over the last decades of the 16th century, and between 1609 and 1614, Phillip III ordered and attempted to carry out the 'final' expulsion of the moriscos from the kingdom. Most fled to North Africa and Ottoman lands, but new documentation suggests that those who could afford to returned under false identities.

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REVIEWS

All About History on the books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world

THE GREAT CONSPIRACY:

BRITAIN'S SECRET WAR AGAINST REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE 1794-1805

Uncover Britain's plot to thwart France's revolution

Author Carlos De La Huerta **Publisher** Amberley Books **Price** £20 **Released** Out now

Economies in turmoil. Radical forces seeking sweeping political change. Scapegoated immigrants. The political establishment using all the powers at its disposal - both legal and nefarious - to protect its interests. *The Great Conspiracy* by Carlos de La Huerta could easily be about the world we live in today rather than Enlightenment-era Europe that its author so brilliantly brings back to life.

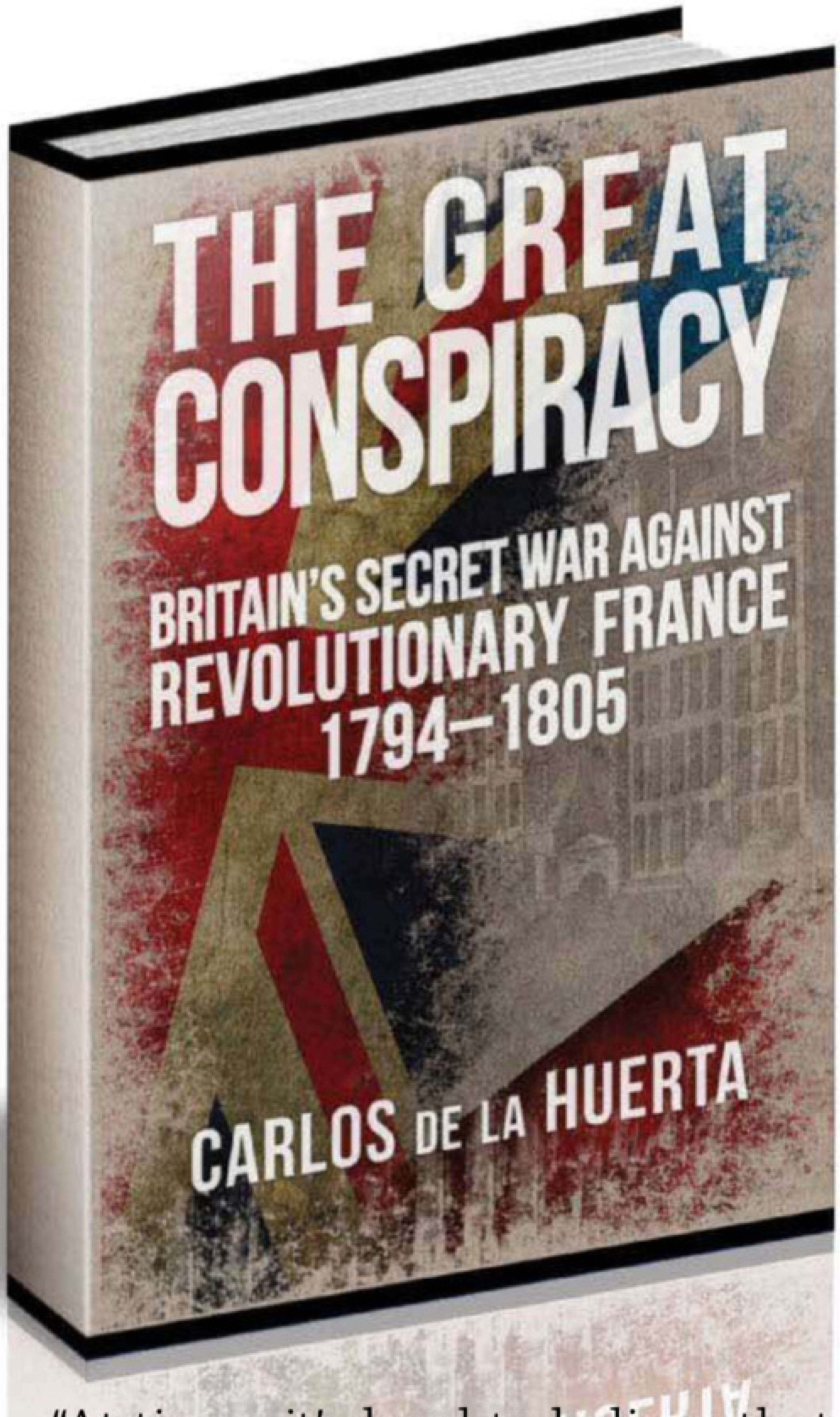
From page one, De La Huerta's writing plunges you straight into the murky world of international politics in the wake of the French Revolution. This epochal event had seen the French people reshape their country's political landscape, as intoxicating new ideas about equality and freedom lit up a nation blundering about in the darkness of a profound economic crisis. France had been brought to the brink of bankruptcy by the extravagant spending of its ruler Louis XVI and its costly involvement in the American War of Independence. When the poor were asked to foot his bill, they rose up and, in 1793, Louis XVI's rule was cut short by a guillotine. The shockwaves rocked Europe to its foundations. The ancient political order - effectively an international cartel of royal and aristocratic families backed by the church - felt profoundly threatened. Not just by these French upstarts, but by the masses they ruled over, and who might get similar ideas. Clearly something had to be done.

What followed - at least as far as history's master narrative has it - was a series of wars, as France's neighbours effectively ganged up on it. These raged on, growing ever larger as Napoleon emerged first as France's finest military commander and then as its de facto monarch with ambitions to redraw the map of Europe.

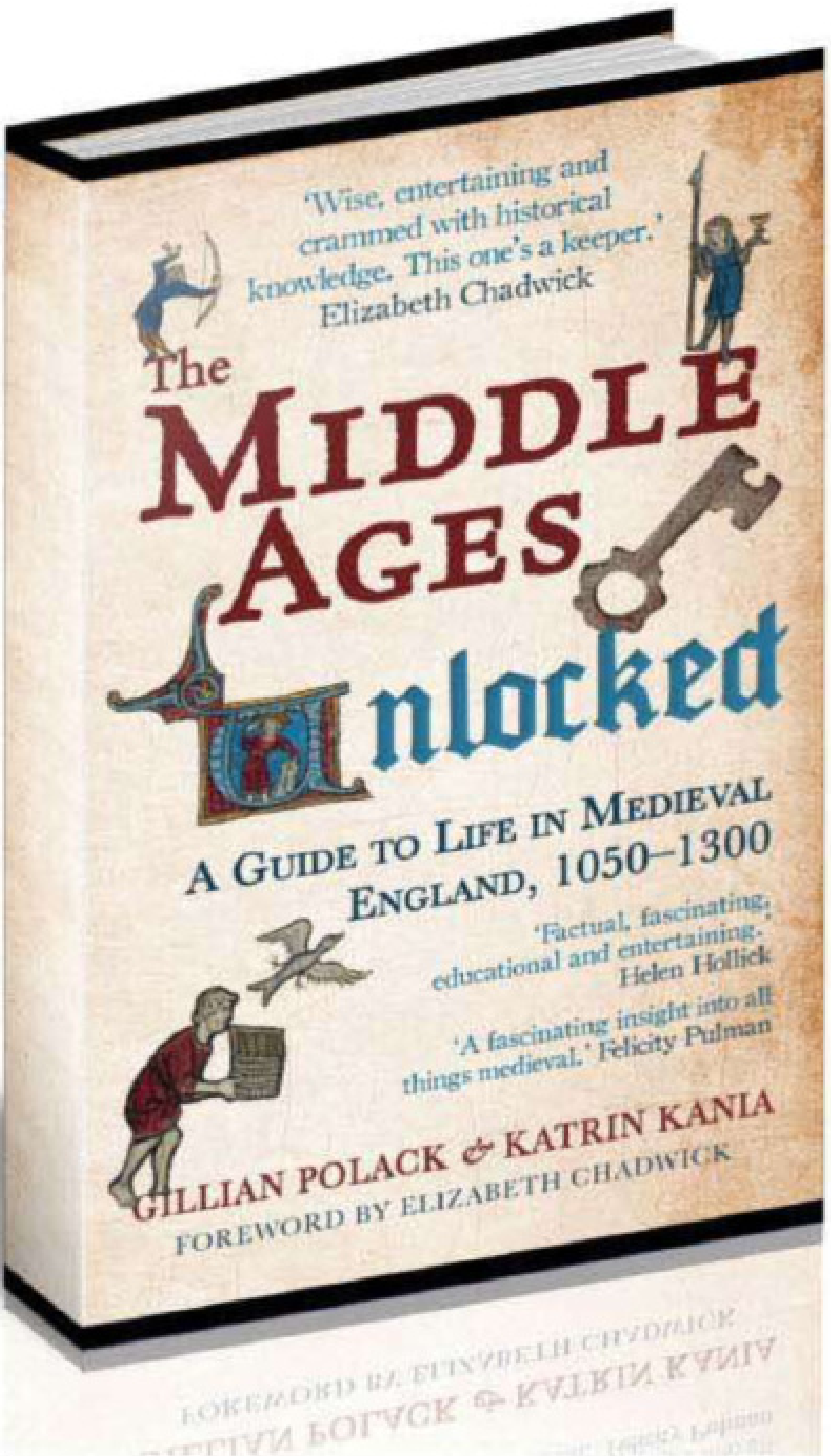
While the battles that defined this period are well documented, the clandestine campaign Britain waged against France has remained in the shadows. Until now. What De La Huerta has uncovered is a remarkable tale of intrigue, subterfuge, espionage, diplomatic missions and state-endorsed murder. Reading like a fast-paced, modern political thriller, *The Great Conspiracy* introduces us to an astonishing cast of characters ranging from daring spies and political assassins to giants of history like Pitt the Younger and Napoleon himself.

Among the most remarkable of those who grace De La Huerta's stage are Britain's spymaster, the sophisticated William Wickham; Napoleon's would-be assassin, the shadowy Georges Cadoudal; and the dashing Royal Navy Captain John Wesley Wright, who died in mysterious circumstances while imprisoned in Paris. In fact, at times it's hard to believe that what you're reading is fact not fiction, so dramatic are the events related and so masterful De La Huerta's ability to spin a yarn. But make no mistake, this is real history and De La Huerta is a fine historian, backing up his exhilarating narrative with a rich array of contemporary primary sources, including personal letters, official accounts and newspaper reports.

An utterly absorbing read that adds a fresh dimension to our understanding of a critical period, while shining a bright light on the birth of British intelligence.



"At times it's hard to believe that what you're reading is fact not fiction, so dramatic are the events"


'Wise, entertaining and crammed with historical knowledge. This one's a keeper.' Elizabeth Chadwick
The Middle Ages Unlocked
A Guide to Life in Medieval England, 1050–1300
'Factual, fascinating, educational and entertaining.' Helen Hollick
'A fascinating insight into all things medieval.' Felicity Pulman
Gillian Polack & Katrin Kania
Foreword by Elizabeth Chadwick

THE MIDDLE AGES UNLOCKED

Delving into the Medieval world

Authors **Gillian Polack & Katrin Kania** **Publisher** **Amberley Publishing**
Price **£9.99** **Released** **Out now**

How much did it cost to rent a house in 13th-century Norwich? When was chess introduced to Europe? When were inquisitors first appointed by the pope? For those with an interest in all things Medieval, questions like these help define an era, adding colour and texture to the lives of our ancestors. For a historical novelist, these are the details that can make or break a tale, the smallest inaccuracy potentially enough to disrupt a reader's immersion in the story, while well-integrated background details add richness and depth and can turn a good novel into a great one.

With *The Middle Ages Unlocked*, authors Polack and Kania have set out to create a handy and accessible reference tool for writers seeking reliable information, but in doing so, have also produced an entertaining and evocative overview of the middle ages for anyone with a passing interest in the period. This book doesn't pretend to be the final word on any given subject; trying to cover every detail pertinent to three centuries in 400 pages simply wouldn't be possible. Instead it aims to provide solid and easily navigable chapters covering all aspects of Medieval life, ranging from the impact of religion and warfare on daily life to the availability and nature of education and the intricacies of gaining and maintaining social status, with plenty of contemporary illustrative references scattered throughout.

With a clear and consistent approach, and the authors' passion for the era shining through in the writing, *The Middle Ages Unlocked* scores well in satisfying its various target audiences; for the enthusiast, it's an entertaining and engrossing read that can be dipped into time and again, each visit revealing some new and fascinating factual tidbit, while as a starting point for the serious researcher, it's difficult to imagine a more accessible or useful go-to resource.

BEN-HUR

Can another adaptation of the classic tale do it justice?

Certificate **12A** **Director** **Timur Bekmambetov** **Cast** **Jack Huston, Morgan Freeman, Toby Kebbell, Rodrigo Santoro** **Released** **Out now in cinemas**

What exactly is the point of this new big-screen adaptation of *Ben-Hur*? Who is it for? It's difficult to tell, really. It seems that director Timur Bekmambetov certainly isn't interested in the plot or the characters all that much, and his handling of the film's central themes (betrayal and redemption) are incredibly superficial. The few short scenes featuring Jesus Christ (played by Rodrigo Santoro) are also hilariously bad.

Fudging the brief but resonant relationship between the two as well as the influence that Jesus Christ has on Ben-Hur's narrative arc from prince to slave to racer boy at Jerusalem's newly built chariot-racing arena is yet another own goal. Bekmambetov resorts to an egregious portrayal of supernatural charisma – mostly achieved through portentous close-ups – in an attempt to communicate Christ's mystical powers. It's hackneyed stuff.

Bekmambetov's heart and artistic energy lies in staging the thrilling and thunderous chariot race, as well as a superbly imagined sea battle set to the pounding beats of a galley slave's drum. Such sequences spectacularly bring the world of the Roman Empire to vivid and violent life. "Was there more a kind so obsessed with the obscene?" Morgan Freeman's Sheik Ilderim asks aloud, reflecting upon the empire's 'violence as entertainment' philosophy.

From the casting of character actors and unknowns playing roles usually taken by bankable movie stars to its turgid plotting and pacing, the film only ever entertains and involves when the director plays to his creative strengths (mounting action sequences). Put simply: *Ben-Hur* is a great story poorly told. The kindest thing to say is, unlike the silent 1925 version, nobody died making it.

© BBC

TELEVISION'S OPENING NIGHT: HOW THE BOX WAS BORN

The BBC marks 80 years of TV with a daring experiment

Creator David Dugan for Windfall Films **Presenters** Dallas Campbell, Professor Danielle George, Dr Hugh Hunt **Distributor** BBC Four **Broadcast** November 2016

The first official live broadcast on British Television was beamed into people's homes on 2 November 1936. Now, 80 years after history was made, the BBC is re-staging that momentous night. Expecting a dramatisation along the lines of *An Adventure In Space And Time*, which told the story of *Doctor Who*'s creation, this takes on more of a documentary-meets-mad science experiment feel, as a team of experts take us through the cogs, gears and electron beams of pre-war technology.

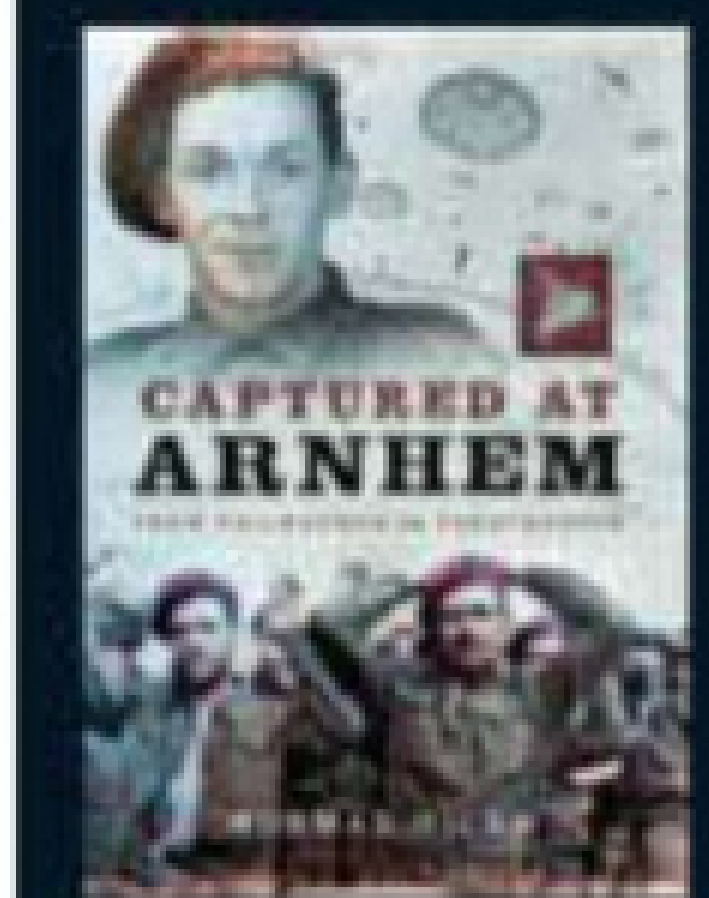
The most intriguing parts of *Television's Opening Night*, however, are the insights into the people and perceptions behind this revolutionary medium. Surprisingly, even the founder of the BBC, Lord Reith, hated the concept, despite creating the mission statement to 'inform, educate and entertain' that remains to this day. At a time when the radio ruled, you get the sense that television was an unnerving and unwelcome beast.

Presented with gusto by the science-loving Dallas Campbell of *Bang Goes The Theory* fame, the programme looks at every aspect of the original broadcast in a bid to find out what happened. With no surviving footage from the event, it's a tough task. What we do know is that the broadcast consisted of a news bulletin and an assortment of variety acts, including comedians, tap dancers and a Chinese juggling act. 80 years later, not much has changed.

HISTORY of WAR RECOMMENDS...

Captured at Arnhem

Author: Norman Hicks **Price:** £25
Publisher: Pen & Sword Military



Tom Hicks fought throughout WWII from enlistment in 1939 to being liberated in 1945 as a POW in Germany. Like many of his generation, Hicks was plucked from civilian life to take part in the most pivotal conflict of the 20th century. This book is another reminder that history is made not just by the politicians and generals but also by ordinary people who take pride in their duty. Capably written by his son Norman, *Captured At Arnhem* is an engaging read that covers the subject in detail, using a variety of sources including his father's wartime diary. What shines through is one Yorkshireman's tireless optimism, good humour and appreciation of the comradeship that war often develops.

VIKINGS SEASON 4 – PART 1

Grab your axe and lock your doors, the Vikings are back

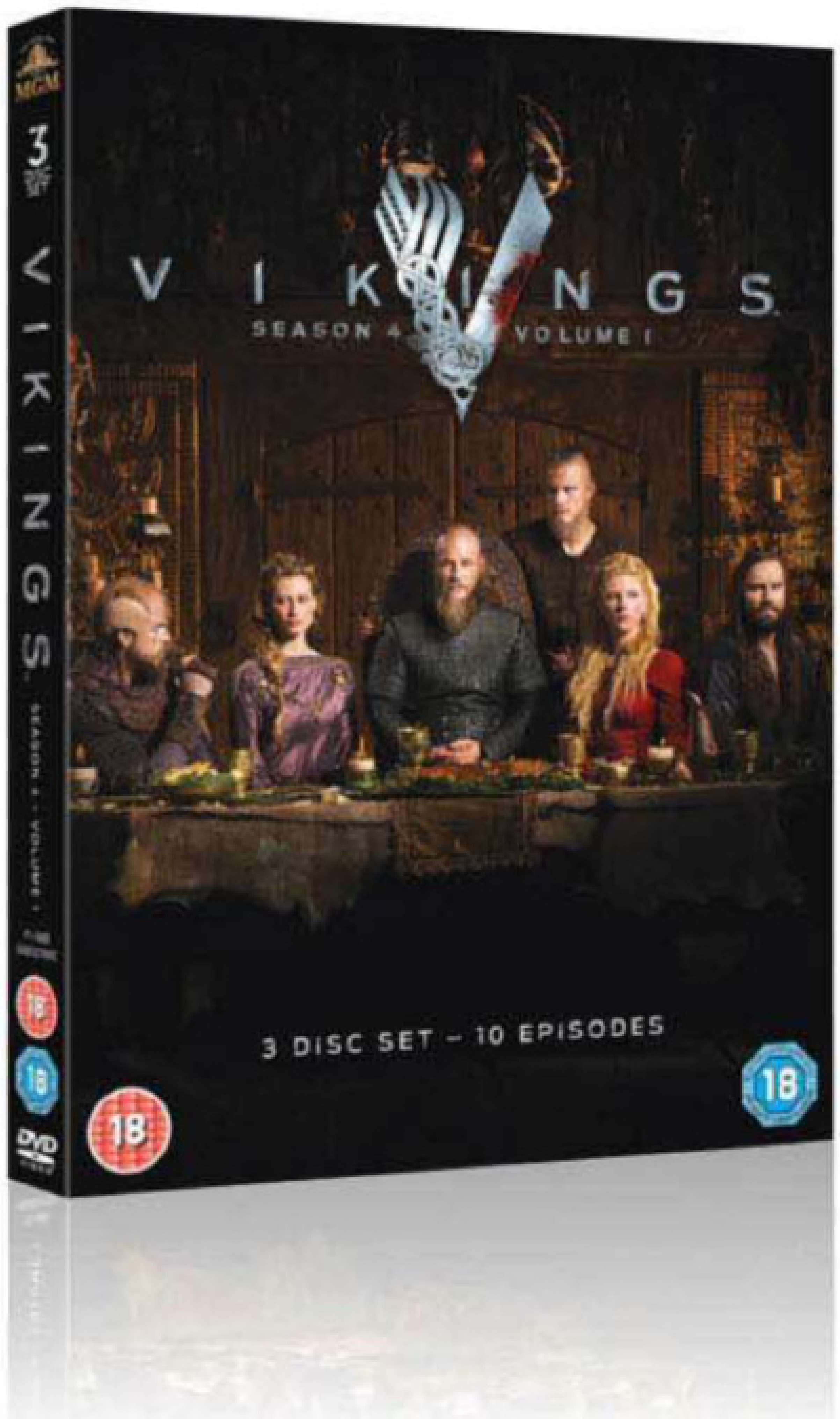
Certificate 18 **Creator** Michael Hirst **Distributor** MGM Television **Cast** Travis Fimmel, Clive Standen, Gustaf Skarsgård **Released** 24 October 2016 on DVD

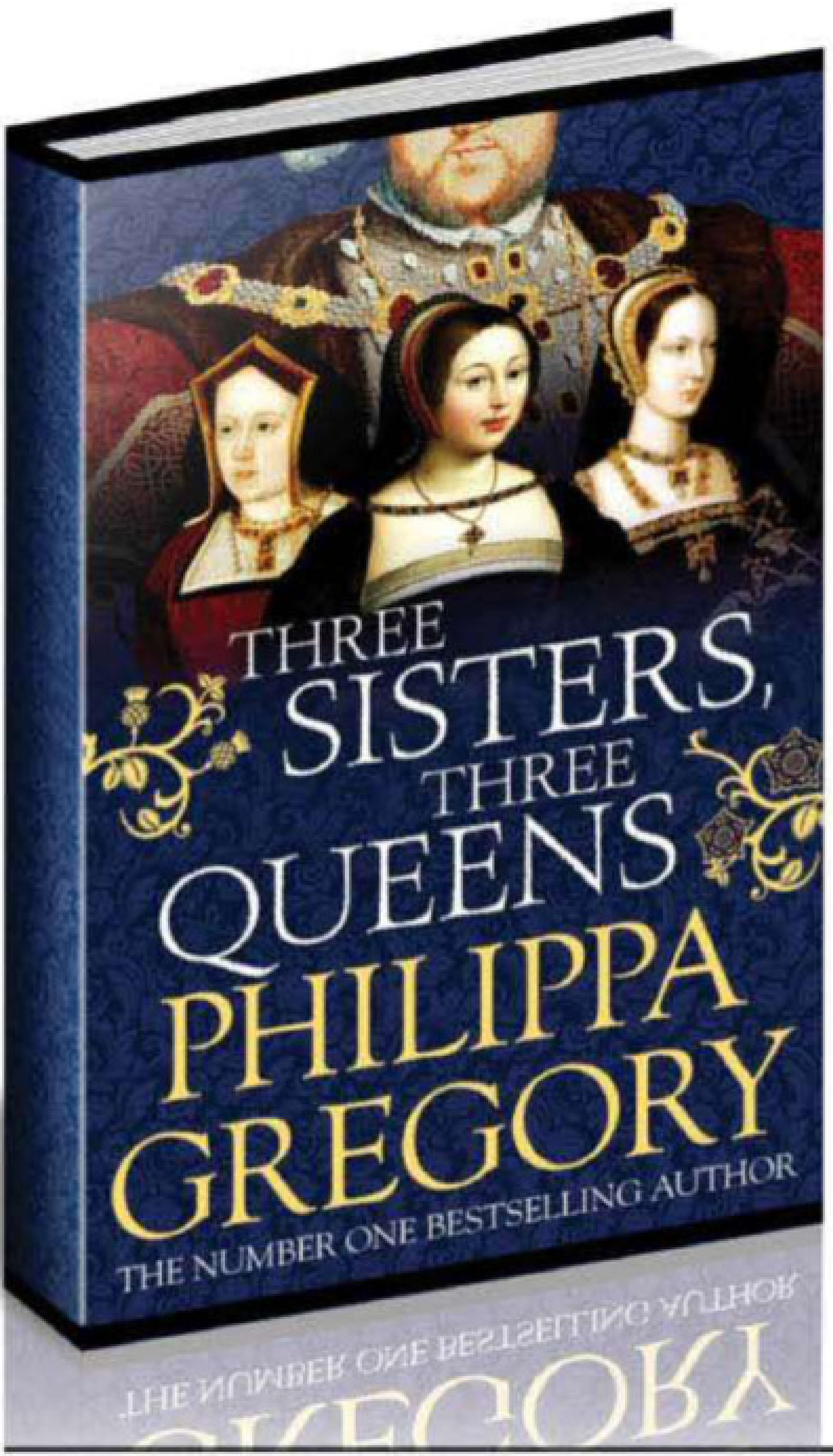
Season 4 part 1 of *Vikings* has arrived, and it's kicking down your door and stealing your best jewellery. Following the adventures of Ragnar, Bjorn, Lagutha and the rest, this season promises bigger battles and more intrigue, sex and magic than ever before.

The story focuses on three main locations: in Scandinavia, the Vikings prepare for their second assault on Paris, in England, King Egbert's schemes grow ever more complex, and in Francia, Rollo scrabbles to defend his new allies from his old friends.

What endears *Vikings* to history enthusiasts is that many of the characters and events in the show are plucked straight from sagas or Norse mythology. Floki's torture parallels Loki's torment by Odin (with a healthy dose of Christian irony, courtesy of Ragnar) and the show has set up Rollo to become William the Conqueror's great-great-great grandfather. Even the celebrations for saints' days are based on contemporary figures.

The show has grown in spectacle year on year, stepping up the set pieces and special effects with more brutal hand-to-hand combat, visceral naval battles and the entire Viking fleet being portaged over the mountains. Packed with Medieval mayhem, this is a spectacular start to the season.




THREE SISTERS, THREE QUEENS
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THREE SISTERS, THREE QUEENS

A simmering, twisting tale of royal rivalry

Author Philippa Gregory **Publisher** Simon and Schuster
Price £20 **Released** Out now

Lauded for her era-spanning novels, Philippa Gregory is no stranger to court politics and crown intrigue. In her latest novel, *Three Sisters, Three Queens*, she returns to the Tudor period to tell the tale of three sisters-in-law: Henry VIII's older sister Margaret Tudor, younger sister Mary Tudor and his first wife Katherine of Aragon.

They go on to become the queens of Scotland, France and England, respectively, and their intertwining stories provide much drama for Gregory to draw from. This is the story of how they got to those positions, from young women who were the closest of friends to warring rivals, each dealing with the influence of Henry VIII and the pressures of noblewomen at that time.

Somewhat surprisingly, the focal point of the book is the king's older sister Margaret Tudor, the least famous of the leading ladies and one who is usually portrayed in the history books with little sympathy. She doesn't come across as very likable in this novel, either, as the first-person narrative paints a princess who is conceited and jealous, just like her brother, while the other sisters' thoughts and feelings are sidelined in the form of letters. We do gain an appreciation of why Margaret acts the way she does, however, and as the story slowly unfolds she transforms into a more mature, tolerable character.

Of course, one shouldn't lose sight of the fact that this is a work of fiction, but an author's note doesn't shy away from this, addressing where fact and fiction meet. *Thee Sisters, Three Queens* is an absorbing read that lends a fresh perspective on Henry VIII's reign through the women that lived with and dared to defy him in their own ways. Fans of the era, historical fiction or simply a dramatic, well-told tale will find much to enjoy here, with Gregory bringing the turbulent Tudors vividly back to life.

FREE STATE OF JONES

Matthew McConaughey saves this historical saga from sinking in the bayou

Certificate 15 **Director** Gary Ross **Cast** Matthew McConaughey, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Keri Russell **Released** Out now in cinemas

Free State Of Jones doesn't lack in ambition and epic scope. Yet despite a generous 140-minute running time, the film's centuries-spanning narrative feels patchy, unevenly plotted and lumbered with a curiously meandering ending. Director and screenwriter Gary Ross resorts to clichéd ellipses and editing tricks to fill in the blanks (bits of on-screen text, the passing of time and key events marked by photographs).

Matthew McConaughey headlines as Newton Knight, the confederate soldier and proud Mississippian. Aggrieved by the war, especially the 'Twenty Negro Law', which allowed plantation masters to return home if they owned 20 slaves, Knight deserts after the Battle of Corinth – easily the film's standout sequence alongside a later gunfight in a churchyard – and makes his long way home. Escaping into the bayous, Newton forms a band of socially inclusive revolutionaries – fellow deserters and slaves on the run – who declare their homeland, Jones County, as a free state. Ross undoubtedly sees Robin Hood and Knight as spiritual brothers. But it's also clear he sought to align his story with today's Occupy Movement and the rise of leftist populist movements for added resonance. Knight is a Utopian and a visionary; his America is all about freedom with social responsibility.

A handsome picture is beautifully photographed by Benoît Delhomme, and McConaughey's southern-fried Robin Hood proves another fine performance. However, such a sprawling plot might have worked better as a TV mini-series, where a director can take time fleshing out what is a fascinating tale. *Free State Of Jones*'s third act, weaving personal tragedy with the volatile and sickening political situations caused by the Reconstruction, new race laws and the rise of the KKK, loses so much dramatic focus, it's almost as if Ross doesn't know how to close his film.

How to make... KORNMJÖLSGRÖT

VIKING PORRIDGE SCANDINAVIA, 700-1100

Ingredients
- 130 grams barley flour
- 1 litre water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Optional extras: honey, nuts, fruit, milk, butter, jam

Viking cuisine was about simple meat and plenty of fish, grains, fruit and vegetables. Kornmjölsgröt was a Viking mealtime staple. Kornmjöl means 'barley flour' in Swedish, and gröt is both the Swedish and Norwegian word for porridge, originating from the Norse word 'grautr' for 'coarse-ground'.

Barley is a hardy and versatile cereal crop, and evidence has shown that Viking settlements as far north as Greenland were able to cultivate healthy harvests 1,000 years ago. Traditional Viking kornmjölsgröt is a gruel-like meal made mostly of barley flour and water, ideal for satisfying a strapping Viking after a hard day's pillaging.

© Thinkstock

METHOD

01 If you want to make authentic Viking flour, you can begin this recipe the hard way and mill your own barley. The Vikings used a heavy round stone with a ridged surface known as a quern to grind the cereal into coarse flour.

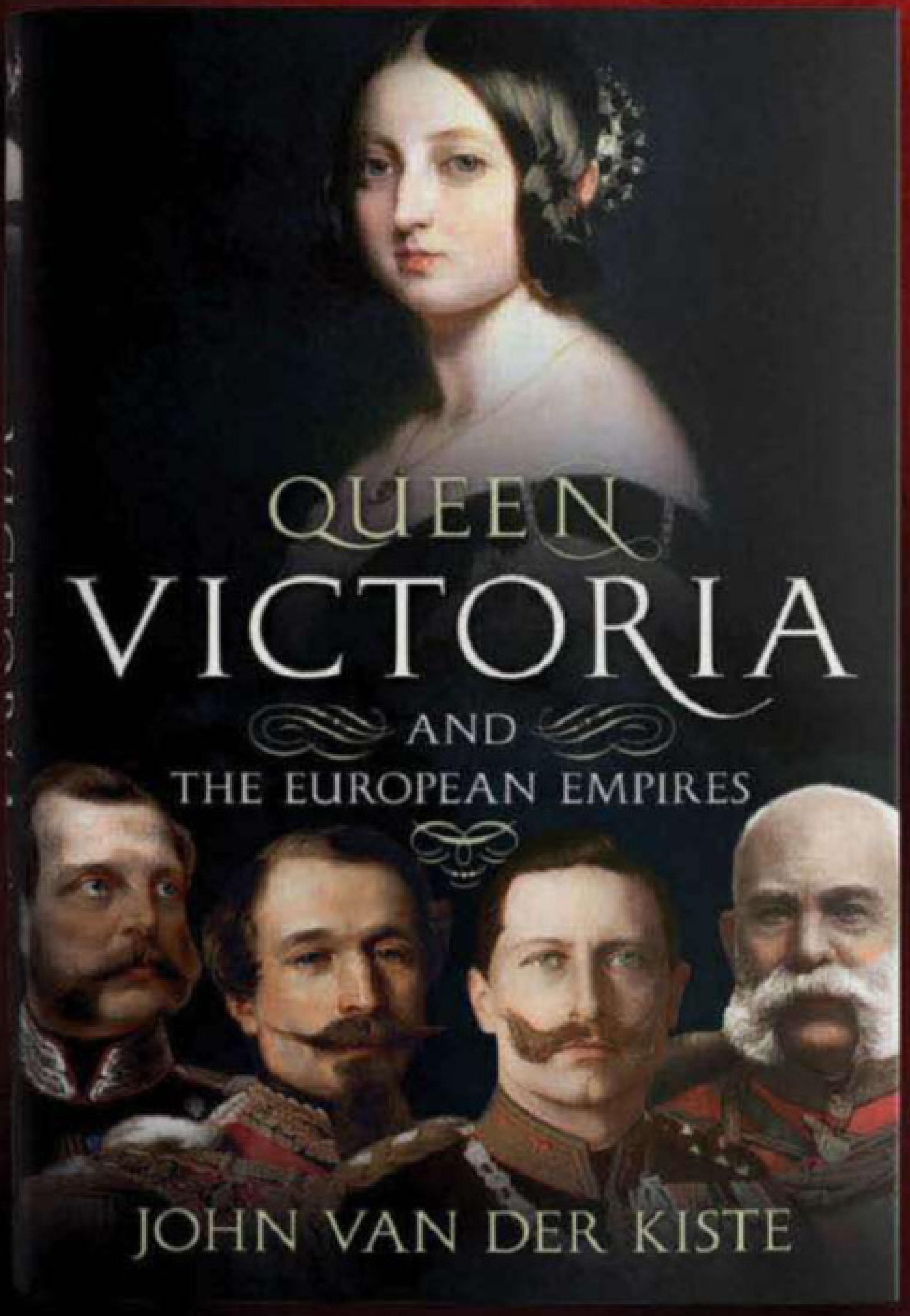
02 Add the water and salt to a large saucepan and bring to the boil.

03 Reduce the heat, and slowly begin to stir in the barley flour, adding a little bit at a time until all of the flour is combined.

04 Stir the mixture to make it smooth and then bring back to the boil. Let the porridge simmer for 10-15 minutes while stirring continuously.

05 Consistency is a matter of taste in porridge – even the Vikings would have had their preferences. If the mixture is a little thick, add more water and stir well until you have your perfect porridge.

06 There are some recipes that add honey for a little sweetness, or chopped hazelnuts. Other toppings include fruit or a small square of butter and a drop of milk – much like the additions to our modern oat variety of porridge.



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HISTORY ANSWERS

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A6M Zeros captured in Malaya were also evaluated by the RAF to determine their weaknesses

Could the Japanese Zero fighter plane only turn left?

Steven Harris

While that's an exaggeration, this WWII fighter plane did have a weakness that limited its manoeuvrability. In 1940, the A6M Zero was the most effective carrier-based fighter plane in the world with a kill ratio of 12:1. But in 1942, Japanese aircraft attacked a US military base in the Aleutian Islands and one Zero was forced to make a crash landing. The pilot was killed, but the plane was mostly intact. The Americans recovered it and were able to repair it and test its handling characteristics.

Like all single-engine aircraft, the Zero generated an anti-clockwise torque as the propeller spun, which made it slower to roll to the right than to the left. But the Zero was built from very lightweight materials to increase its range, and so it felt the propeller torque more strongly. What's more, at high speed, the control surfaces became stiffer and couldn't steer enough to counter the torque. Once the Americans learned this, they were able to beat the Zero in dogfights by keeping their speed high and always breaking to the right.

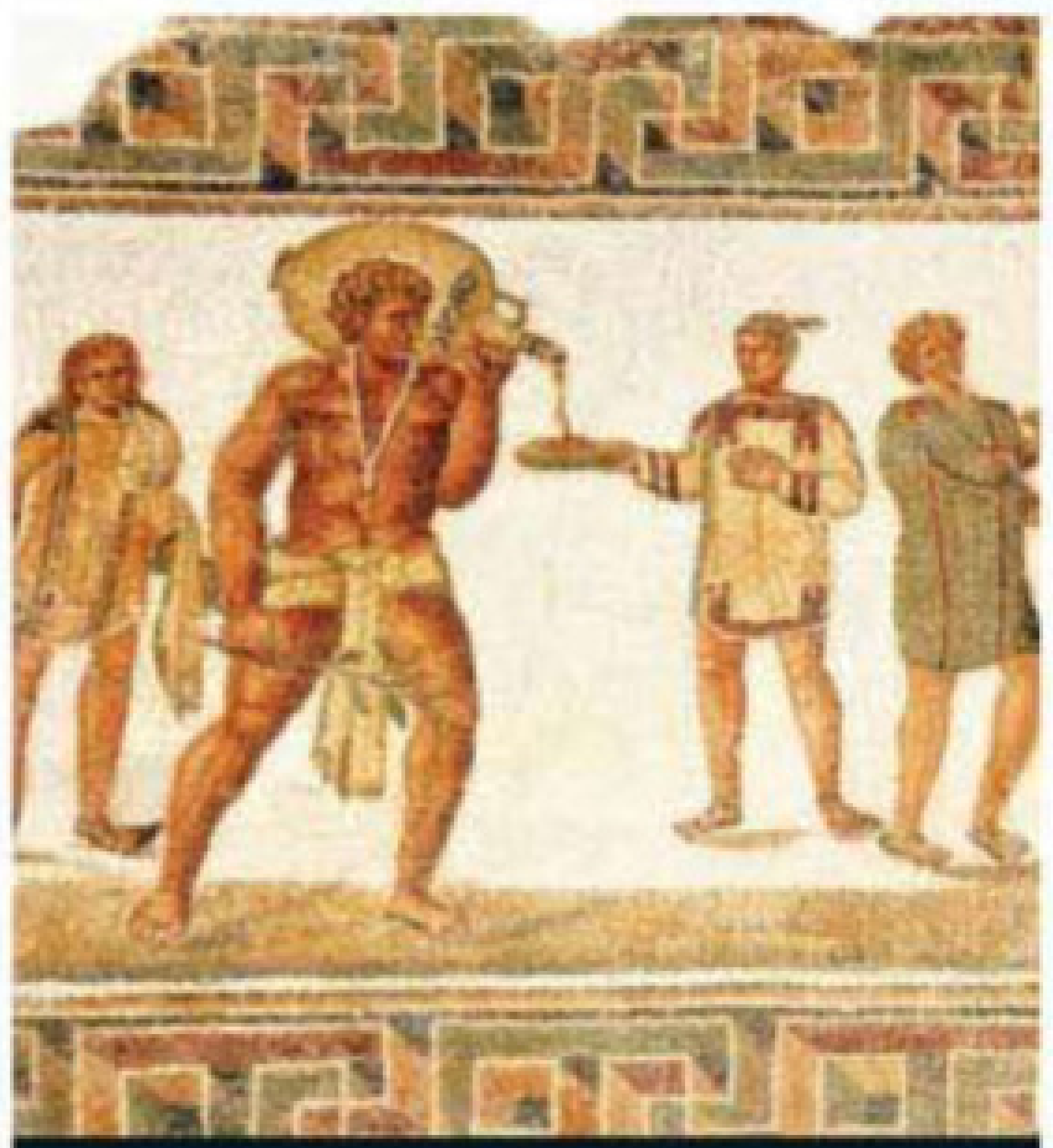
How strong was the wine drunk in Ancient Rome?

Margaret Coleman

Most of the ordinary strains of yeast available in the ancient world stop fermenting once the alcohol concentration reaches 15 per cent, so they couldn't have made anything much stronger than that. Pliny the Elder mentions a wine that could be set alight, which would require an alcohol content of at least 15 per cent, so it seems that some wines did reach this upper limit.

The Israelites, Scythians and Gauls drank their wine neat but both the Romans and Greeks thought that this was uncivilised and always diluted it with water. The Greek physician Mnesitheus claimed that even diluting it 50:50 would still send you mad.

Homer in the 8th or 9th century BCE wrote of 20 parts water to one part wine, and by the 1st century CE, the Roman statesman Mucianus was suggesting a ratio of 60:1. At that dilution, your cup would only be 0.25 per cent alcohol!



Romans drank their wine so diluted that they would barely have noticed the alcohol

This day in history 13 October

54 CE

Claudius poisoned

Emperor Claudius dies in the early hours of the morning, aged 63. Most sources agree he was poisoned, probably by his fourth wife Agrippina, to ensure her son Nero would become Emperor.

1307

De Molay arrested

Jacques de Molay, grand master of the Knights Templar, is arrested, along with many of his knights. He confesses to heresy under torture but later recants, and will be burned at the stake still protesting his innocence.

1582

Nothing happened

Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain are the first countries to switch from the old Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar in use today. During the changeover, the date jumps from 4 October to 15 October.

1773

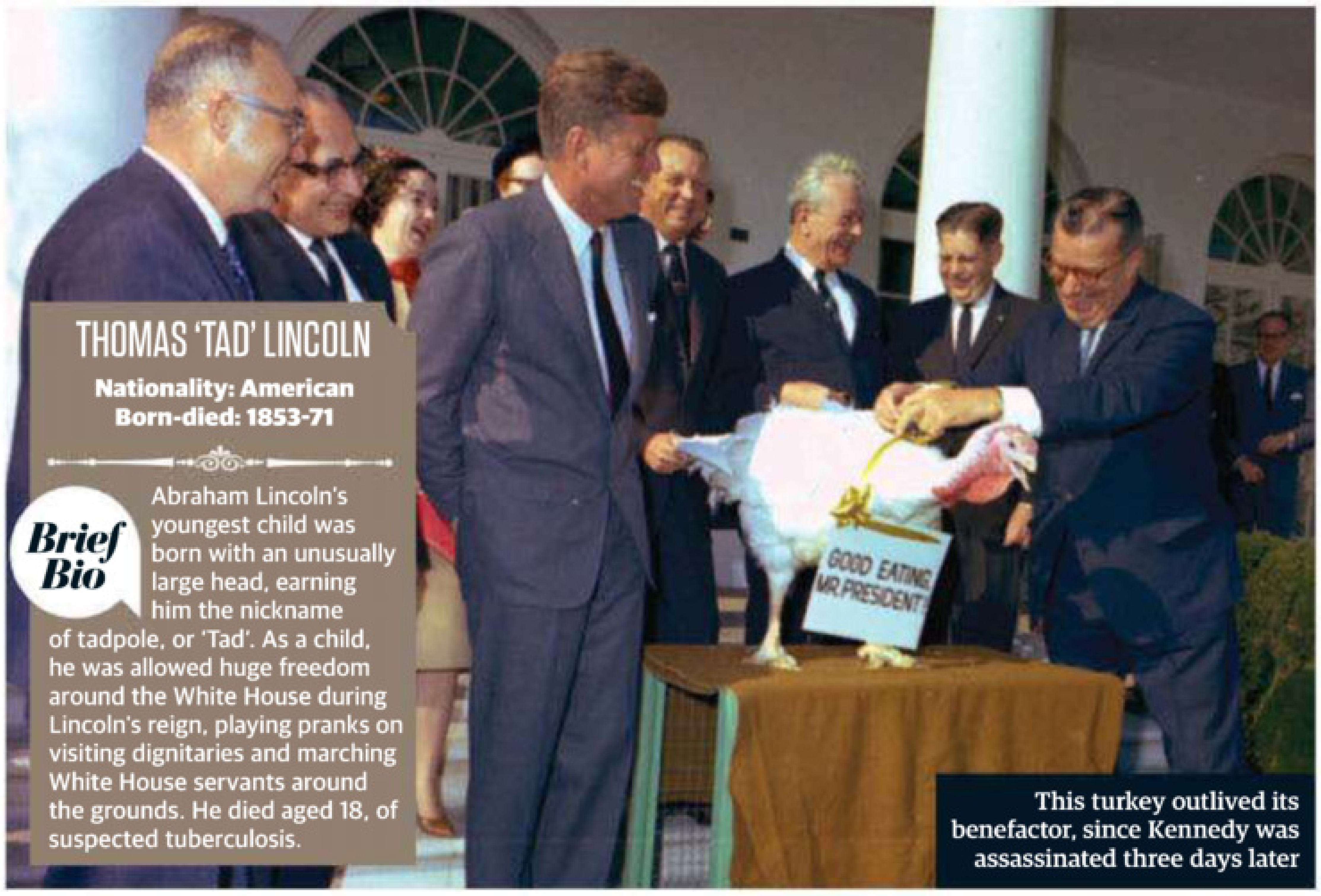
Whirlpool Galaxy discovered

French astronomer Charles Messier publishes a catalogue of 110 diffuse objects in the sky that could be confused with comets. Number 51 is the first spiral galaxy ever found.

Which president started the tradition of pardoning the Thanksgiving turkey?

Joshua Long

The first turkey ever to be spared was given to Abraham Lincoln in 1863. Lincoln's 11-year-old son Tad adopted it as a pet and begged to be allowed to keep it when the time came for slaughter. But this turkey had been intended for Christmas dinner, not Thanksgiving. Presidents were regularly presented with Thanksgiving turkeys, beginning with Harry Truman in 1947, and they were all eaten. It wasn't until 1963 that John F Kennedy officially spared his turkey. Even he didn't use the word pardon, though. Reagan was the first to do that in 1987 and the annual tradition didn't begin until George H W Bush in 1989.



This turkey outlived its benefactor, since Kennedy was assassinated three days later

THOMAS 'TAD' LINCOLN

Nationality: American
Born-died: 1853-71

Brief Bio

Abraham Lincoln's youngest child was born with an unusually large head, earning him the nickname of tadpole, or 'Tad'. As a child, he was allowed huge freedom around the White House during Lincoln's reign, playing pranks on visiting dignitaries and marching White House servants around the grounds. He died aged 18, of suspected tuberculosis.

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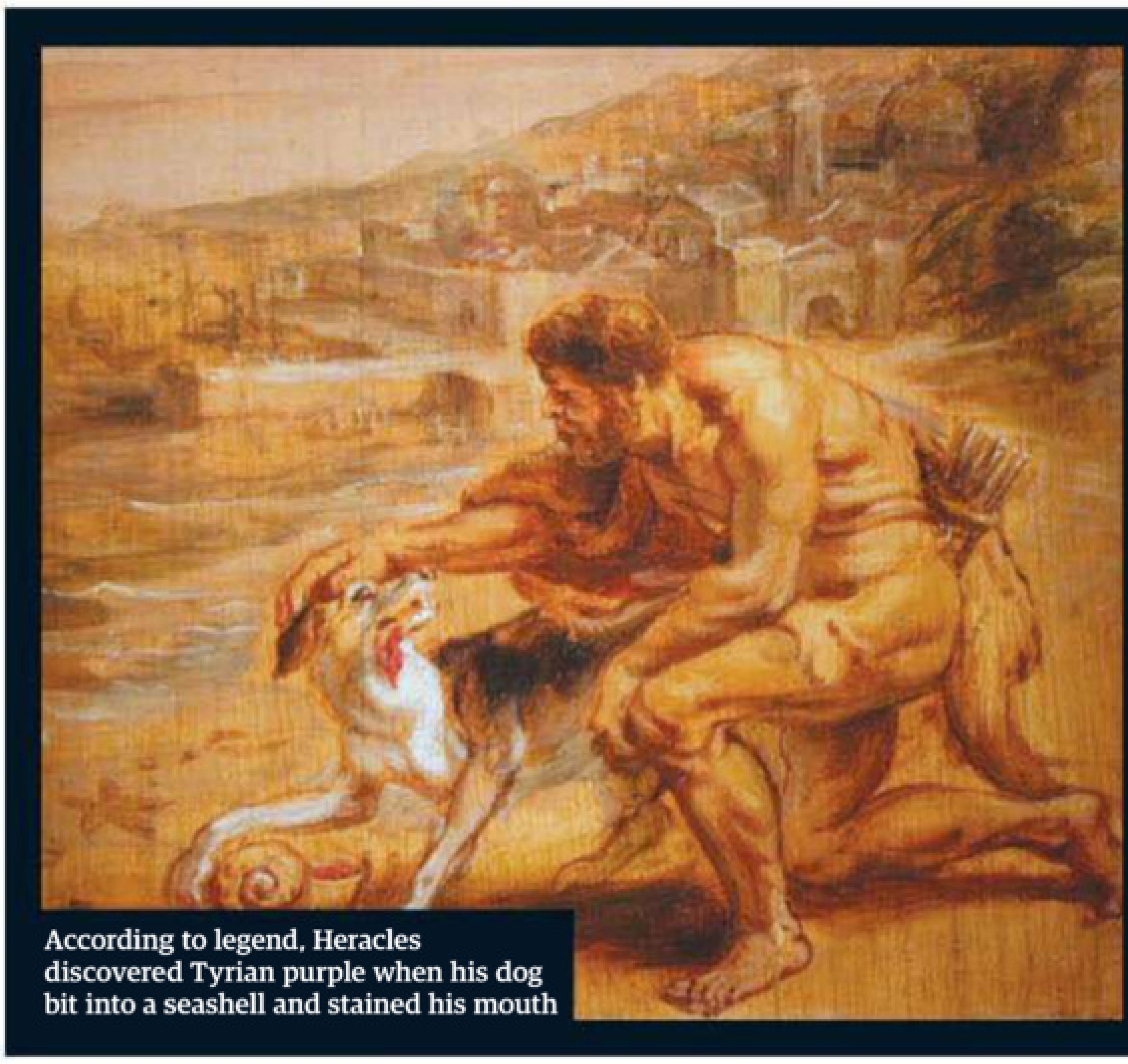
Why is purple considered the colour of royalty?

Nicole Collins

Around 1500 BCE, the ancient Phoenicians produced a dye called Tyrian purple. This was made from the mucus secretions of a particular sea snail. The dye was highly prized because instead of fading in sunlight, it actually got brighter. However, it took 10,000 snails to make a single gram of dye, so it was fabulously expensive. In the 3rd century, the Emperor Alexander Severus actually forbade anyone outside the royal family from wearing clothes dyed with Tyrian purple.



According to legend, Heracles discovered Tyrian purple when his dog bit into a seashell and stained his mouth

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1792

White House cornerstone laid
Without any formal ceremony, construction begins on the new home of the USA's second president, John Adams. The work on the building is carried out by a mixture of African-American slaves and free labourers.

1943

Italy switches sides
After the fascist government collapses and Mussolini is deposed, his former chief of staff, General Pietro Badoglio, negotiates a conditional surrender with Eisenhower and then declares war on Germany, Italy's former ally.

1958

Paddington Bear debuts
A Bear Called Paddington becomes the first of 25 books featuring the marmalade-loving bear. Author Michael Bond wrote it in ten days after buying a toy bear at the station for his wife.

1972

Andes flight disaster
Uruguayan Air Force Flight 571, carrying 45 people, crashes in the high Andes. 16 of them will survive there for two months, by eating the frozen bodies of those that perished.

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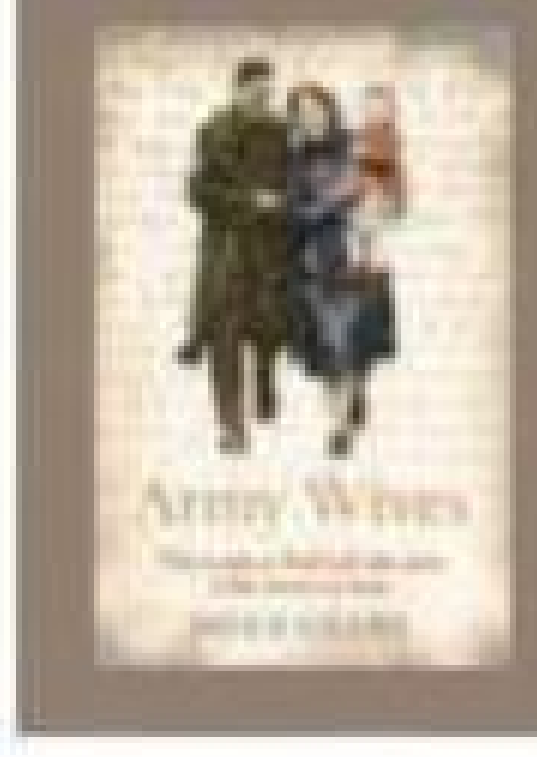

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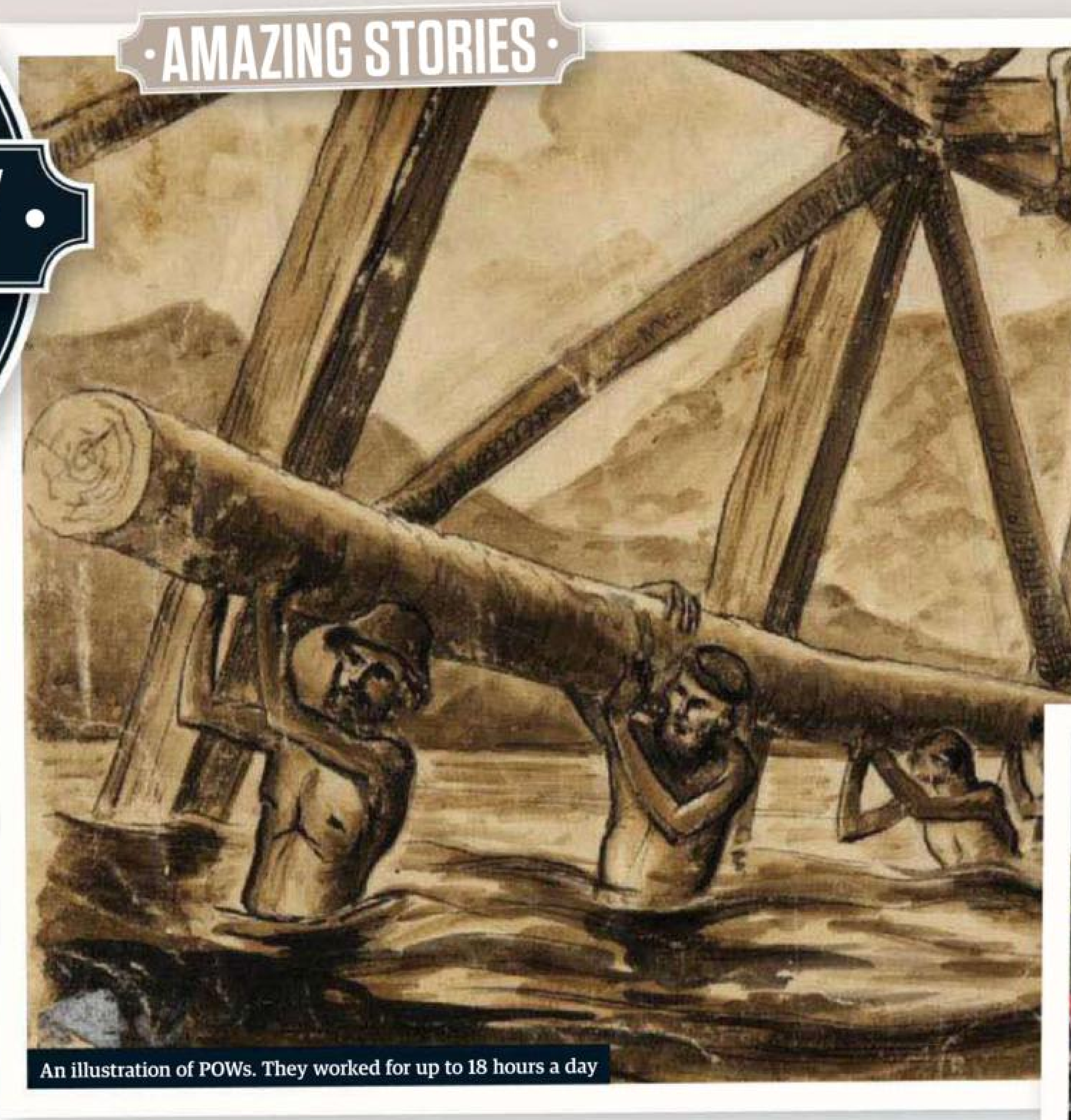
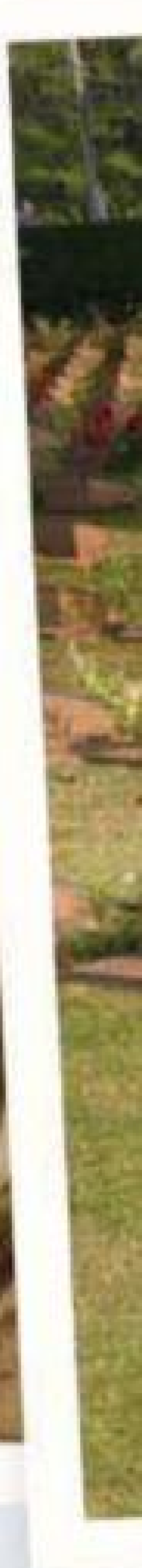
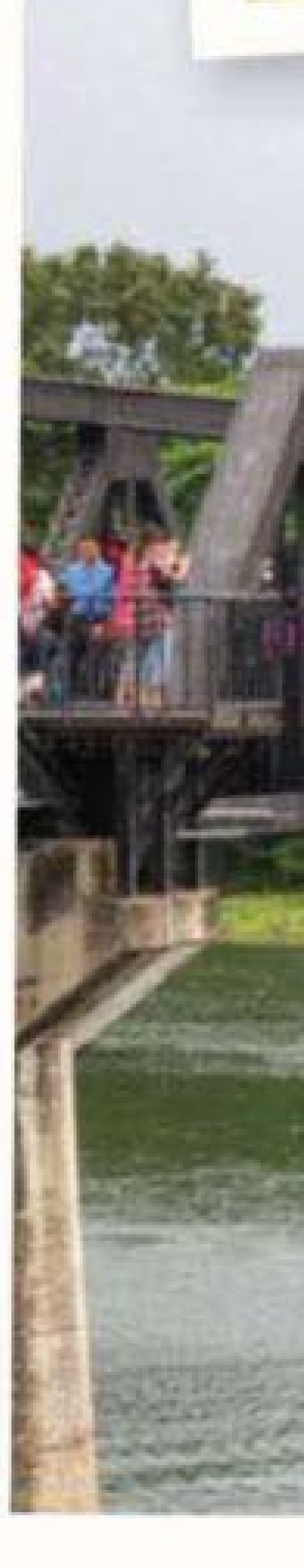


An illustration of POWs. They worked for up to 18 hours a day





Remembering the Death Railway

The story of a Japanese POW forced to build the bridge on the River Kwai in World War II

John Newby

I was on my way to work when, two storeys above, a window opened and water came down, just missing me. I looked up and there was a red-haired woman emptying a teapot of water. When I got into work I went up to the second floor and asked the forelady, "Who was the new girl throwing water out the window?" She told me her name was Shirley, I said "You better get me a date with her," and after a few tries, she finally agreed.

After a couple of months, I met Shirley's family. Her father, Jack Dixey, told me that he was a prisoner of the Japanese in World War II. After the Japanese had taken the Allies by surprise by coming down both sides of the Malay coast, he escaped Singapore with a few other soldiers. They managed to commandeer a gunboat, but it was soon sunk by the Japanese Imperial Navy. However, he slipped away once more on a liferaft with three other men. After making their way to shore, they walked along the beach and found a stream of fresh water coming out of the jungle. Jack decided to follow the water while the other three followed the shoreline. He never saw them again.

After walking for some distance, he came upon a Malay village where the local people took care of him, but after a few days the villagers shouted that the Japanese were coming. Rather than get them in any trouble, Jack walked out and surrendered to a patrol. He was taken to Changi Jail in Singapore

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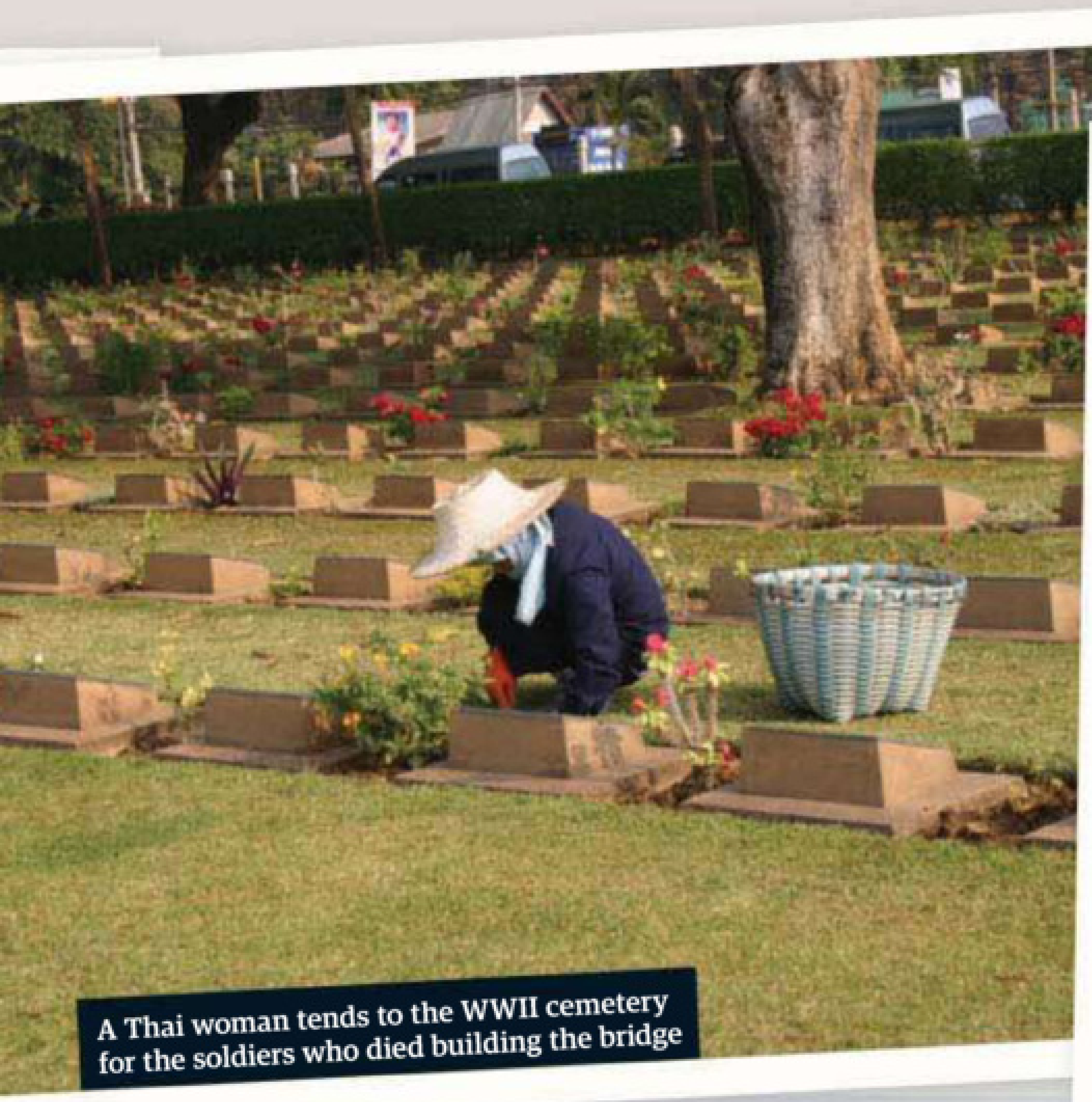
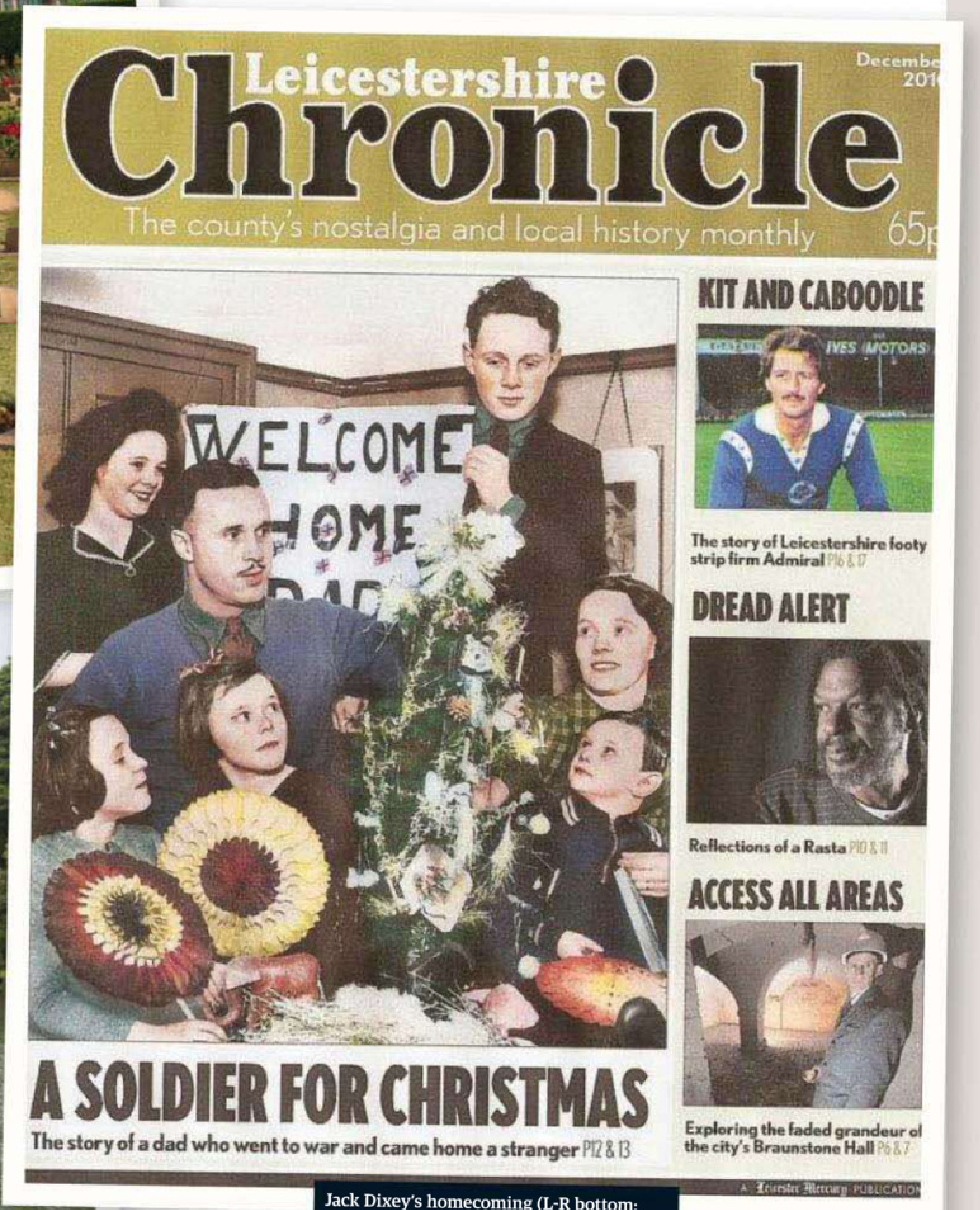


A Thai woman tends to the WWII cemetery for the soldiers who died building the bridge



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A Leicester Mercury PUBLICATION

Jack Dixey's homecoming (L-R bottom: Jean, Shirley, Alan, & Mum, May. L-R top: Eldest daughter Eileen, Jack and son John)

before being sent to work on the railway the Japanese were building. During this time, the prisoners of war made base camps and stayed in one area for a while until a section of the bridge was complete. Jack would venture into the jungle and find a village where he would ask for food to take back to the camp and give to prisoners that were sick.

One Christmas, the prisoners were singing carols and were told to be silent. After the third warning, the Japanese ordered "Everybody out!" But many of the prisoners were very ill, so Jack volunteered to say he was singing with just a few other chaps, but when they were questioned individually, one got scared and told the truth. The Japanese put those few to one side and the 35 or more were punished with bamboo canes and rifle butts. Another time, Jack was caught coming back to camp with eggs from a village and was punished by being forced to kneel with a log across the back of his legs, holding a rock above his head for hours on end. If he tired, he would be beaten.

The stories that Jack told were incredible and I must admit I was a little sceptical. That was until the day my dad's good friend Wally Kidger visited. He knew I had a new girlfriend whose father was a Japanese POW. What a small world it turned out to be when Wally revealed that he was taken prisoner as a 17-year-old sailor on the HMS Prince of Wales when the Japanese air force sunk the ship off the coast of Sumatra. It was in Changi, while working on the railway, that he met Jack Dixey. Wally confirmed all the stories that he had told me, and more.

After all the years that they had not seen each other, Wally got in touch with Jack and, soon after, the movie *The Bridge On The River Kwai* premiered in London in 1957. They were both invited to attend and told me afterwards that the film was nothing like the actual conditions they endured. They say that one man died for every wooden sleeper that was laid on the track, and this is why it will always be known as the 'Death Railway'.

Do you have any family stories to share? /AllAboutHistory @AboutHistoryMag

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Imagine Publishing Ltd
Richmond House, 33 Richmond Hill
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Magazine team

Editor **Jodie Tyley**
jodie.tyley@imagine-publishing.co.uk
☎ 01202 586274
Senior Art Editor **Andy Downes**
Production Editor **Callie Green**
Research Editor **Peter Price**
Assistant Designer **Ryan Wells**
Editor in Chief **James Hoare**
Picture Editor **Tim Hunt**
Photographer **James Sheppard**
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Contributors
Ella Carter, Martyn Conterio, Catherine Curzon, Nell Darby, Dominic Green, Blaine Pardoe, Luis Villazon, Nick Soldinger, David Wacks, William Welsh, Gavin Watson, Frances White, Tim Williamson, Willow Winsham

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Joe Cummings

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Advertising
Digital or printed media packs are available on request.
Head of Sales Hang Deretz
☎ 01202 586442
hang.deretz@imagine-publishing.co.uk
Sales Executive Daniel Stewart
☎ 01202 586430
daniel.stewart@imagine-publishing.co.uk

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Head of International Licensing Cathy Blackman
☎ +44 (0) 1202 586401
licensing@imagine-publishing.co.uk

Subscriptions
For all subscription enquiries:
allabouthistory@servicehelpline.co.uk
☎ UK 0844 848 8408
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Head of Subscriptions Sharon Todd

Circulation
Circulation Director Darren Pearce
☎ 01202 586200

Production
Production Director Jane Hawkins
☎ 01202 586200

Finance
Finance Director Marco Peroni

Founder
Group Managing Director Damian Butt

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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

HER MAJESTY MRS BROWN

Director: John Madden **Starring:** Judi Dench, Billy Connolly **Country:** UK **Released:** 1997

Does the BAFTA Award-winning film steal the crown?

VERDICT A few liberties are taken for the sake of drama, but the movie stays mostly true to the facts

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 Dates get a little muddled when Benjamin Disraeli is shown as Britain's prime minister in 1866, when in reality he didn't come to power until 1868. He is later seen addressing parliament about the disestablishment of the Irish Church, but that didn't happen under his government.

02 When the prince of Wales recovers from typhoid, the queen orders a mass to be held in St George's Chapel. However, as a devout Protestant, she would never have given this order, nor have the power to do so. A Church of England service was held at St Paul's Cathedral.

03 After the thanksgiving service in 1871, the royal carriages are shown bearing the monogram VRI for Victoria Regina Imperatrix (Victoria, Queen, Empress). The 'I' was not actually added until 1876 when the monarch was created empress of India.

04 Victoria's sixth assassination attempt is depicted as occurring at St George's when, in fact, the gunman had been thrown out by police. It was days later, in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, that he attacked and John Brown tackled him to the ground.

WHAT THEY GOT RIGHT...

The friendship between the queen and her servant John Brown has long been a source of rabid speculation, but the film resists the urge to up the romance. It also accurately portrays the monarch's fraught relationship with her son Edward, her deep mourning and the air of republicanism that was apparent at the time.

"THIS ONE IS A WINNER...FOR FANS OF HENNING MANKELL AND ELIZABETH GEORGE"

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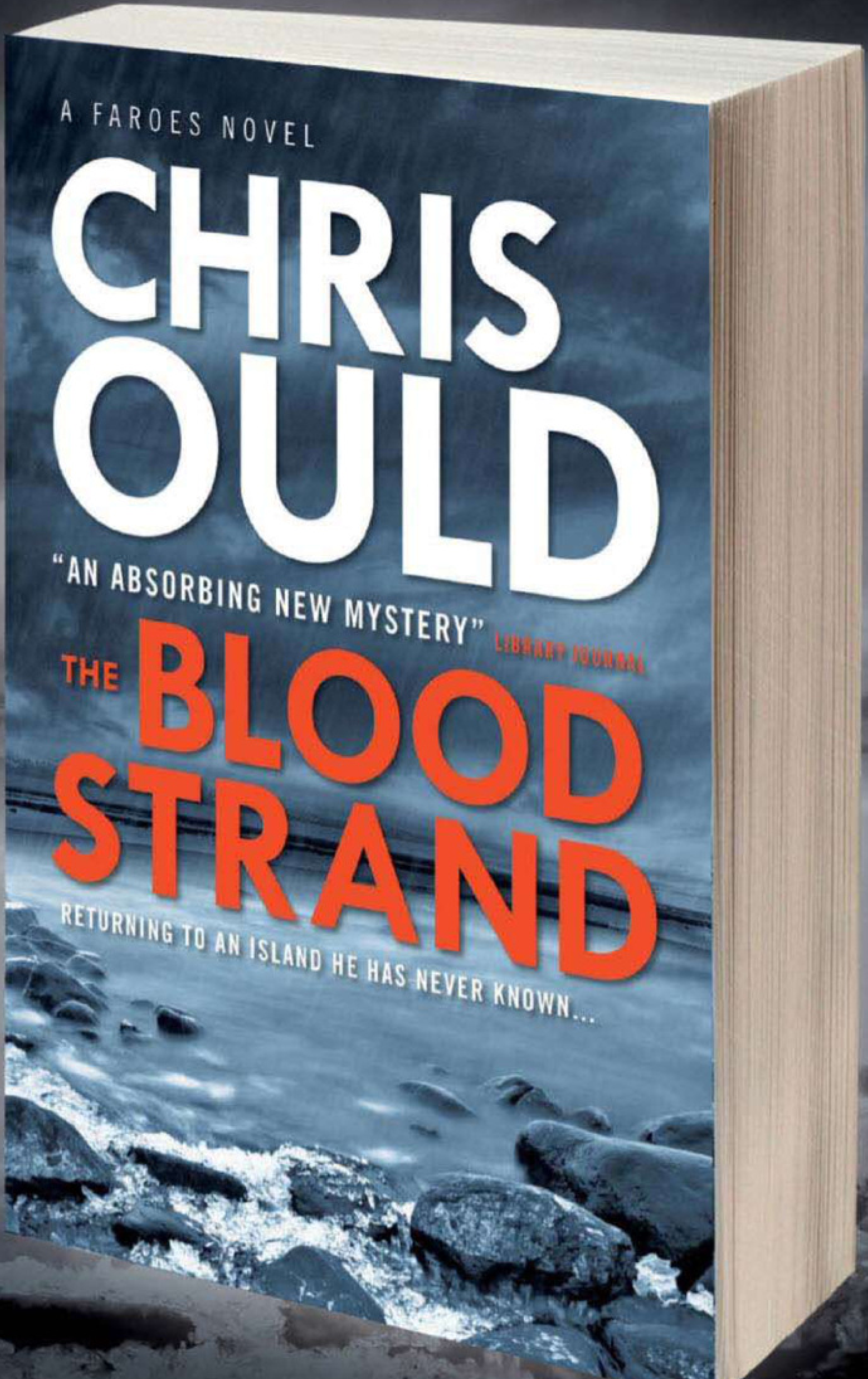
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